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HISTORY
of
DE GRAFF

OHIO
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OF
FONTANA, NE & ALLEN CO. INC.

by
Daniel Evan Strayer

PUBLISHED
MAY 1950

Foreword

IN accepting the task of writing a History of DeGraff, for the past one hundred years, we realize, no work of history ever yet escaped error and one hundred years is a vast field to cover.

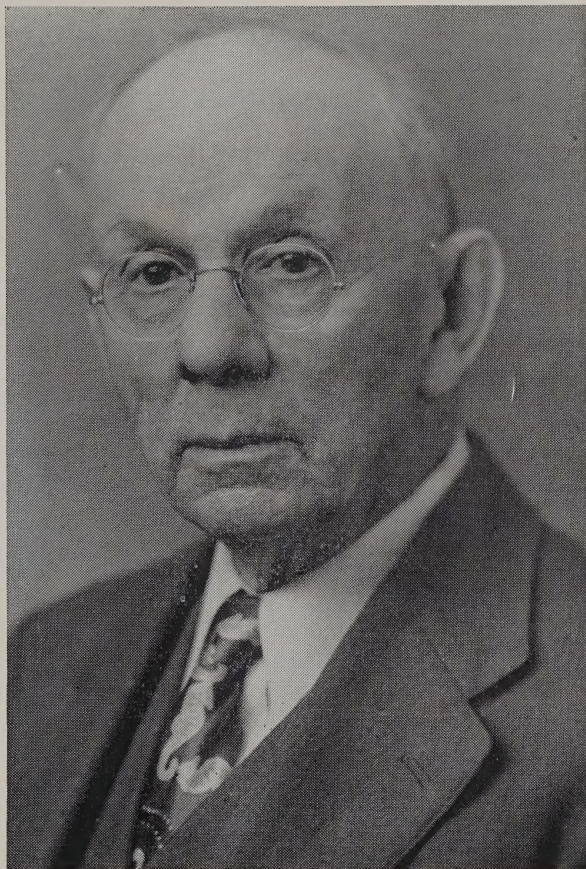
We shall incorporate in this history, events concerning DeGraff, only, after we have checked old dairies, newspapers and business memorandum books, covering the period. We have resided in DeGraff the greater part of the past century—have lived from the candle age to the age of television. All the changes in our manner of living, because of the machine age and inventions, have come within our life span.

We shall endeavor to compile in history, how these changes affected DeGraff and its people.

The many laborious months passed in critical study, have, perhaps, given the author of this book, some right to speak with assurance on questions relating to our early history. In compiling this book, we have confined ourselves to facts—to proven events. Attempt to write a little about everything is fatal to lucidity, but, it has been our aim to leave you with a relish for reading DeGraff's history.

DANIEL EVAN STRAYER

1809889



THE AUTHOR
D. E. Strayer

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STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COLUMBUS 15

FRANK J. LAUSCHE
GOVERNOR

The DeGraff Centennial Association
DeGraff, Ohio
Attention: Mr. D. E. Strayer, Historian

Gentlemen:

To the citizens of the town of DeGraff I extend sincere congratulations on the happy occasion of the 100th anniversary of its founding.

It was in the year 1850—while the halls of Congress rang with the fiery eloquence of Webster, Calhoun and Clay over the slavery issue which was even then precipitating this nation to the brink of the Civil War—that young William Boggs laid out the Village of DeGraff in Logan County. To a site overlooking the Miami River he had come some years before in a wagon, bringing along his wife and child, to make a start for himself in a veritable wilderness. Here in the Miami Valley he built his cabin and his grist mill. From this humble beginning rose the town of DeGraff. Its growth has been slow but its progress in things which make fine American living has been steady. DeGraff, so rich in history and tradition, is one of the delightful home communities that have helped to make Ohio a great State and America the most powerful nation in the world.

All Ohio joins me in wishing our neighbors of DeGraff a joyful centennial celebration and many more years of continued progress, prosperity, hapiness and contentment.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK J. LAUSCHE
GOVERNOR

FJL:n

JOHN W. BRICKER

UNITED STATES SENATE
Committee on Banking and Currency

August 15, 1949

Mr. D. E. Strayer, Historian
DeGraff Centennial Association, DeGraff, Ohio
Dear Mr. Strayer:

I appreciate the opportunity you have afforded me to extend my warmest congratulations to the town of DeGraff on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of its founding. It is fitting that the citizens of this community should join together, not only to pay tribute to the hardy pioneers who first established the town, but also to look back over a century of achievement with justifiable pride.

I encourage you and your fellow citizens to take stock of the principles on which your town was founded. We all should dedicate ourselves to the preservation of those basic principles. The citizens of DeGraff should count themselves fortunate in having, as Historian for this centennial celebration, a man who has been personally acquainted with the history of their town over by far the greater portion of its life.

May your town go forward and prosper for another century. Ohioans are proud of you.

Sincerely yours,

JWB:ms

JOHN W. BRICKER .

ROBERT A. TAFT
Ohio

Committees:
Labor and Public Welfare
Finance
I. Jack Martin
Administrative Assistant

UNITED STATES SENATE
Washington, D. C.

Mr. D. E. Strayer, Historian,
DeGraff Centennial Association, DeGraff, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Strayer:

I have received your note of June twenty-second, and I am greatly interested in the Centennial Celebration to be held by the town of DeGraff in May, 1950.

I congratulate the citizens of this progressive town and wish for them a most successful celebration of their first hundred years. It is indeed wise that the history of that time should be written, and I know that you will make it a most interesting chronicle.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

RT:o

ROBERT A. TAFT

CLARENCE J. BROWN, 7th District, Ohio
Home Address: Blanchester, Ohio

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Blanchester, Ohio, Sept. 14th, 1949.

Congratulations to the DeGraff community and its citizens.

A community which survives to celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding must be a sound and stable one—a good place in which to live.

DeGraff has not only survived—but it has gone forward and grown better with the years. It is the kind of a community that has made America great, for it is in the small towns such as this that we find the soundest, most patriotic citizenship. So long as the DeGraffs of this nation remain the homes of happy, patriotic and prosperous citizens, so long will the American way of life continue as an inspiration to the rest of the world.

So it is really a pleasure for me to extend greetings to DeGraff and its people on the 100th anniversary—and to my old friend, and DeGraff's elder leader—D. E. Strayer, who has done so much to record and preserve historical facts of the founding and development of his home community.

Most sincerely,

CLARENCE J. BROWN,

DeGraff's Representative in the Congress of the United States.

The Decades from 1818 to 1850

The Shawnee Indians at DeGraff

THE Shawnee Indians were the strongest, most warlike of any Indian tribes. They had able chiefs in Logan, Blackhoof, Tecumseh, Bokengehelas, and Tarbe. They, more than any other Indian tribe, defeated Braddock's Army in the English-American and French-Indian War.

They were defeated and driven out of the eastern part of Logan County in 1827—defeated at Fallen Timbers by General Wayne in 1786. A peace treaty was signed at Greenville in 1795 agreeing to retire north of a line (Greenville Treaty Line) running east and west through Logan County, just north of Logansville. All of the above chiefs signed the treaty, but Tecumseh, who refused to sign, and Chief Lewis, with his Indian tribe at Old Town.

The story, printed below, has been written by O. K. Reames, of Zanesfield. Mr. Reames is a Logan County historian and has written a number of plays and pageants depicting early Logan county history.

"During the year of 1805 John Boggs, of Pickaway County, purchased from the government a large tract of land where DeGraff now stands. The same year George McCulloch came to Miami Township and erected a cabin on this land. During the same summer, Jeremiah Stansbury located on a quarter section on Stony Creek. Just west of Stansbury and south of McCulloch, on the banks of Stony Creek, a mile and a half southwest of DeGraff, was the Indian village, Old Town. This historical spot was the abode of the Shawnees as late as 1813 and possibly until after the treaty of 1817. By this treaty, the Shawnees in Ohio gave up all their lands, except two reservations. One was in Logan County known as the Lewistown Reservation. Taking its name from Captain Lewis, who lived at Old Town until his removal with his tribe into the reservation.

Nearly opposite, from Old Town on the banks of Stony Creek stood a block house. It was built by Hiram Curry, during the war of 1812, at the suggestion of the settlers who feared the Indians here might not prove friendly. Fortunately, it was never needed for warfare purposes. At the time of the coming of the first settlers conditions were quite different. The Indians were in full possession of this territory, and were viewing the steady advance of the settlements with ill, disgusted feelings. Tecumseh had refused to sign the treaty at Greenville

in 1795, and had long since, been inciting the Indians to do something, to stay the progress of the whites.

The coming, into their very midst, of Stansbury, McCulloch, and other families aroused the savages to the necessity of immediate action if the impending danger was to be averted. The actions of the Indians at Old Town on Stony Creek, headed by Tecumseh, during the winter of 1805 and 1806, would indicate a general uprising of the Indians at this time.

The timely action and bravery of Simon Kenton and his associates at the Indian council at Old Town on February 16, 1806, kept the Indians from a general uprising at this time. The great war chief, Tecumseh, was present and used his utmost persuasive eloquence to bring about a collision with the settlers, but, under the influence of Kenton their fear of the whites, whose vengeance they had so often felt, gained the controls and a peaceful course was decided upon."

A second treaty was made with their Chief, Lewis, in 1814, so finally, a short time before 1820 they reluctantly moved to Lewistown, the town taking the name of their chief, Lewis. The land east of the Ludlow road was claimed by Virginia and given to her soldiers. The land west of the Ludlow road was Congress land and much in our territory had been purchased at \$1.25 per acre from the government and their peaceful possession depended on the departure of the Indians. There were no railroads in Ohio. Transportation was mostly by rivers and canals. The National road, Route 40, was like an Indian trail, through Ohio from Marietta to Columbus, so that many used the Ohio River to Cincinnati and the Miami River or the Miami Canal to Dayton. And so, it was, that about 1825 Wm. Boggs came to Logan county and built a sawmill (in 1833) and in 1825 Dr. James Canby came from Lebanon and built the house that is now the Shawan home. And in the territory, four miles south of DeGraff, came the Newmans, the Leaches, the Saylor, the Kress', the Kinnans and many other families. They formed a Methodist Society and in 1828 they built a church, near where now, is the small Newman Cemetery. In our early days it was known as Olive Chapel. Into this community came our grandfather in 1831 and in this church our father was reared. Our grandfather came from Virginia in a covered wagon, bought land which now belongs to Mr. Lines, built a blacksmith shop and did all the blacksmith work, for that community, for the following 35 years.

William Boggs built a flour mill in 1840 close to the sawmill at the foot of Mill Street. In 1832 a railroad was projected from Sandusky to Springfield. Sandusky was the shipping point for this community. We have heard our grandfather, Samuel Henderson, tell of driving his six-horse team with a wagon loaded with wheat and requiring as long as two weeks to reach Sandusky. The Atlantic Seaboard and England were the best markets for the farmer's products and it was more economical to ship via Sandusky and the Erie Canal to New York, than by driving over the National Road with its poor condition and various toll gates. All the material for this railroad was brought from England and they were fifteen years (1847) building it to Bellefontaine. It was the day of wheelbarrow, pick ax and shovel. It was the first railroad built in Ohio. A railroad was in process of building from Indianapolis to Union City, so plans were made to build from Bellefontaine west to meet this road at Union City.

Various surveys were made and it was found that by going south of the winding Miami river, they could avoid building two bridges to reach Quincy and Sidney, both being promising towns.

A civil engineer, a man by the name of DeGraff, visited here and seeing a saw mill, a flour mill, a thriving community around Olive Chapel, with Logansville three miles north and Springhill four miles south, decided he would make a station here and call it DeGraff.



WILLIAM BOGGS

History of Old Settlers

In presenting a history of old settlers who came into DeGraff community, it will be limited to those who came before the railroad, and we will miss many of whom we have no record.

WILLIAM BOGGS—came in 1826 and built a home west of the town, near the Miami River. He built a sawmill in 1833 and a flour mill in 1840. Boggs laid out the town of DeGraff in 1850. We knew him well, being a kid with his grandson, William E. Harris, and being in his home one-half mile south of town many times. He was of jovial disposition, a practical joker, and full of fun.

In our memory, we have a picture of him, riding a white horse up to the bank, being greeted with a chorus of, "How are you, Uncle Billy?" and the merry twinkle in his eyes as he replied to the salutations.

JOSEPH SHRIVER—came here at an early date and built the flour mill for William Boggs. He was the first miller. He built the home on Race Street, where Adairs now live, in about 1843 and that was his home all the years we knew him. He built the elevator, which was the place of many social functions in the early days. We have him listed as a hardware merchant in 1873.

AARON MITCHELL—was put in charge of the elevator built at the railroad on Boggs Street. One room, next to the railroad, was used as a ticket office for

the railroad and Lee Reynolds, stepson of Aaron Mitchell, was the first ticket agent. The third floor of the building was used for public purposes, such as meetings and festivals. This room was used for public purposes until 1870, when Youngman & Strayer built a second room over the building next to the bank, making it an amusement hall. Cyrus Humphrey bought from Boggs and made the first addition to DeGraff, being lots on the east side of Main Street. These included eleven lots from Hayes Street to Moore Street. John Koke laid out the corresponding lots on Koke Street, which bears his name.

JOHN STRAYER—was the progenitor of 90 per cent of the Strayers of Logan and Shelby Counties. He came to Logan County around 1830. He is listed in the 1830 census as living in Goshen Township, Clark County, Ohio, having moved there from Berkeley County, Virginia. His grandfather, Nicholas Strayer of Shepherdstown, Virginia, was the grand-dad of all the Strayers in this section. He came from the Rhine country in Germany. He was Chairman of the Finance Committee that built the first German Luthern Church, west of the Allegheny Mountains, at Shepherdstown.

NICHOLAS STRAYER III—came to Logan County from Berkeley County, Virginia, in 1832. He bought land in the Olive Chapel neighborhood, and the Olive Chapel Cemetery is a donation from his land.

DANIEL STRAYER—came to Springfield in 1829 and to Logan County in 1830; bought land near Olive Chapel, built a blacksmith shop, and did all the blacksmithing for this section for the following twenty years. He was the father of William M. Strayer and the grandfather of your historian.

JAMES MOORE and **ROBERT DICKSON**—came from Kentucky in 1809 with two yoke of oxen, having purchased from the government 300 acres of land north of Logansville. There were no neighbors or roads, but Alfred Matthews and Robert Ellis soon moved into this territory.

ISAAC SMITH—was DeGraff's first lawyer and exerted quite an influence in the young town. He was a leader in organizing the Methodist Church. He also built the two-story brick building that houses the present post office in 1867. In 1860 he was appointed postmaster.

JACKSON LIPPINCOTT—came to DeGraff in 1850 from Lippincott Station and built the first business room where stands the Roby Garage. He built and lived in the brick house on North Main Street, now occupied by the Loffers. He was a leader in civic affairs.

AMARIAH WELLER—came from St. Paris and established a store room, where now stands the Wm. L. Hostetler home, and became the first postmaster of DeGraff. In 1860 he built a two-story brick building on the southeast corner of the square, which was the city limit, and moved his drugstore to that location. There has been a drug store there ever since. Mr. Weller was a very progressive citizen.

DR. JAMES CANBY—came here in 1825 and built the home where Jacob Shawan now resides. His son, Richard, moved to Bellefontaine and was Prosecuting Attorney from 1841 to 1845 and was elected later to Congress.

THOMAS and **JOHN MAKEMSON**—came up from Kentucky at an early date, 1806, and built the two brick houses a mile east of town. We find that both of them voted in 1818 at the township election.

DR. MATSON, Logansville, and **DR. R. S. GILCREST** were the physicians of this early period.

SAMUEL HENDERSON—came from Loudon County, Virginia, in 1837, and purchased a half section of land three miles northeast of DeGraff.

ROBERT MOORE—moved into Union Township in 1807. He was the father of Samuel, who was the father of Raphael. Raphael was the father of the late A. H. Moore, of our generation.

From grandfather Daniel Strayer's leather bound ledger was found the following account:

April 21, 1831	Joseph Canby
To 7 Tons Hay @ \$5	\$35.00
To Cash \$25. 1½ days work, 75c	25.75
1832 To making 1000 Rails @ \$1	\$10.00
To 1 barrel Flour	4.00
April, 1831	
By 25 Bu. Wheat @ 50c	\$12.50
By 64½ Bu. Corn @ 25c	16.12
By 7 Bu. Potatoes @ 25c	2.25
By 60 Bu. Rye @ 25c	15.00
To 2 days hauling when moving from Piqua	\$9.00

JOHN PEGAN and his brother, Elzy, came here at an early date and built the first houses, at the top of the hill south of town. They were carpenters and they and their sons did much of the building of that early period.

JOSEPH STRAYER. In looking up the Strayer history, we find this history written by Joseph Strayer, son of Nicholas Strayer and grandfather of Minor Strayer, of the present generation.

"Was born in Berkley County, Virginia, in 1824. Was four years old when parents moved to Maryland and operated a hotel on the National Road. Father kept three slaves, Ramy, Cissie, and Joe. Joe died in 1830. When Father decided to go west, a drover came along with four dozen slaves, old and young, hand cuffed. He asked father if he wanted to buy or sell and father sold Ramy and Cissie for \$200 each. The children all cried. In 1832 moved to West Liberty, Ohio, and a few months later moved to Olive Chapel neighborhood, on the farm now owned by George Pool. Only crooked paths and where DeGraff now stands, was a swamp covered with willows. He hauled grain to Sandusky, ten days in good weather. First trip was to drive 100 hogs and when the hogs gave out, he stopped at an Indian hut. He was afraid of Indians and an old squaw gave him a lump of sugar. Stayed several nights there. A few Indians around here but more father north."

The first election in Miami Township was held Oct. 13, 1818 and the following names were voters:

Wm. Moon, Thos. Makemson, Phil Matthew, Jr., George Moore, Sr., Thos. Provost, Ben Schooler, Jas. Moon, John Turner, Francis Patton, Robert Alexander, Shepherd Patton, Griffith Johnson, John Mannin, David Archer, Wm. Moon, Sr., Jas. Shaw, John Paris, John Wilson, John Means, John Moore, Wm. Dowden, John Schooler, Geo. Moon, Sr., Patrick McFall, John Patton, Christian Smith, Samuel Firestone.

Clerks—Patrick McFall, John Patton.

Judges—John Schooler, Wm. Dowden, John Means.

This election was probably held in Quincy as most of the voters were from around Quincy and Logansville, Pleasant Township at that time being included in Miami. Union Township was also included in Miami.

Prior to First Train

When did the first train arrive in DeGraff? We don't know. We have, diligently, searched historical publications in vain. We, remember, hearing that a great lot of people were to greet the iron monster and that, it was quite an event.

We had the pleasure a few years ago of reading a letter Aunt Sue Koch wrote to her relatives in Pennsylvania and, as we remember it, she said the new railroad ran right past their farm, and they would have to cross it to go to Logansville to trade, so she supposed they would go to Spring Hill to do their trading. We call her Aunt Sue because our mother and she were great friends and as a small boy we used to go to her home for milk, and as we reached the gate a great big wolf-looking dog would come bounding out, barking ferociously, and then from the porch would come her voice, "Come on in, he won't bite you," so we nervously opened the gate, our faith was all on her and not the dog.

Several years ago we had an interview with Mrs. Catherine Houlihan, which was published in the DeGraff Journal. Since it related to the early life of DeGraff it seems worthy of repeating.

Mrs. Houlihan, in our younger days was the wife of Thomas Houlihan, who was section boss on the railroad and they lived on North Koke Street. At the time, of the interview, she was living with her son, on a farm, near Quincy and was possibly 100 years old, but, very bright and keen of wit.

We said to her, "Tell us how you came to DeGraff and what you know of the proposed Sandusky and Louisville Railroad."

She said, "I was born Katherine Murphy, in the County Clare, Ireland, and came, with my father, to New York. I don't know how old I was, but, I must have been nine or ten. In New York they were hurrahing for Scott and hurrahing for Pierce (1852) and I asked my father why, and he, said, they were going to make one of them king. We left New York in a few days and went, by way of the Erie Canal, to Buffalo, where we took a boat for Sandusky and then, on the new railroad to Bellefontaine. We had stopped several months at Patterson, which was quite a town then. From Bellefontaine, we went to DeGraff over the new railroad. There were shacks on both sides of the road and we lived in one of them, until, we got a house down the railroad, afterwards known as the James Reid home. I went to school, that winter, in the second floor of the hotel and your father, was the teacher. Afterwards, I went to school in the new building erected on what is now the Joe Weller lot, but, the building soon was too small and was sold to the Catholics for a church. There were 38 Catholic families here at that time. Three of the Keatings, had the contract for building the DeGraff section, of the Sandusky-Louisville railroad and when it failed financially, only Frank Keating remained."

So, we know, from an eye witness, that trains were running to Degraff in 1853, for our father, having attended Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, several terms, taught the first school in DeGraff in the fall of 1853.

We may assume, that sometime in 1851 or 1852 the first train arrived in DeGraff.

The Decade from 1850-1860

The First Train to Arrive in DeGraff; Big Celebration

Not until we read a few lines of D. E. Strayer's article did we become really interested in this series on "The Early History of DeGraff." The lines, which attracted our attention read, "When did the first train arrive in DeGraff? We don't know. We have diligently searched historical publications in vain" and "we may assume that sometime in 1851 or 1852 the first train arrived in DeGraff."

That prompted us to do a little research of our own. However, we hate history—dates confuse us because, we intentionally lie (that's prevaricate) about them—they are too outspoken. But the date 1850 rings a bell. That's when our great grandfather, John W. Shoemaker, Sr., and his good wife, Mariah Shinkle, and his son, our grandfather, John W. Shoemaker, Jr., and his good wife, Mary Hudson, came in a covered wagon from Chester County, Pennsylvania, and settled in Logan County. In this same caravan came Samuel Boyer and his good wife, Catherine Miller, maternal grandparents of S. B. Hamsher. These good people were Dunkards, German Baptists, and Rev. Isaac Frantz and Rev. Abendego Miller entered their lives.

It, was said, in the olden days, that a scrap book and a good cow should enter every household at the very start, even though one of them does smell like sour paste. This leads up to two big scrap books which originated in our grandfather's family and later were handed down to our mother the late Mrs. Lou Shoemaker Burdette, and then to us. When they got to us, well, we thought it would be nice to modernize them and so-o-o we started pasting our clippings—where?—over the old things. But, we remembered a yarn about the first train to arrive in DeGraff and after we rummaged and found the books we started to quake for fear we had pasted over the very clipping we needed but, as Dame Luck would have it—there it was. These scrap books, we might add, are huge. They came from a tailor shop, probably Uncle Billy White's or Dennis Warner's. We remember our grandmother had comforts made from the swatches of woolen material taken from just such books.

So, now, we shall take our story from the old scrap books and start with Col. Andrew DeGraff, the old boy, himself, who was once called the Railroad King. We shall confine this article to the "First Train." He is buried in a

Dayton cemetery. With our brother, R. G. Burdette (of Cleveland) when we were small children, our paternal grandparents, G. G. Burdette and his good wife Rebecca Kress, took us to see the hallowed spot—a very rustic looking small mausoleum of field stone, covered with ivy. A wrought iron arch is at the front with the name DeGraff in large iron letters. He died November 7, 1894, so the scrap book says. Where did the scrap book get it? The DeGraff Journal was established in 1893 and in their issue of November 15, 1894, they carried this headline, "Col. Andrew DeGraff Dead." And now, quoting from the Journal, "The grand old man for whom our town was named died in St. Paul, Minnesota, at the advanced age of 83 years."

"In March, 1850, Col. DeGraff began surveying routes for the C. C. C. & I. R. R., (Old Bee Line). Soon after, our town, which bears the name of this civil engineer, sprang into existence, and has had a steady growth ever since. The original plot of DeGraff consisted of that portion bound by the race bank on the south, Koke Street on the east, Hayes Street on the north and Boggs Street on the west. John Koke had this portion of the village surveyed and laid out into lots, Col. DeGraff doing the surveying.

"The next lots were those between Hayes and Miami Streets, on lands owned by Wm. Boggs. These lots were also surveyed by Col. DeGraff. Mr. Koke and Mr. Boggs being the leading spirits in forwarding the interests of the new town, named it for the civil engineer, who, being pleased with the place and the people, readily consented. He made many friends here as the few who are left testify.

"On November 9, 1852, the ladies of the place, among whom was Mrs. D. W. Koch, served a public dinner for the railroad men, and on that day, were treated to a ride on the new road, then not finished as far as Quincy.

"Immediately, after the road was completed through here, Mr. James Askren and Mr. Philo Darwin, two rival merchants of Logansville, purchased ground and began the erection of the store rooms. The last named gentleman was a father-in-law of J. Q. A. Campbell, who dips his pen in liquid eloquence and edits the Bellefontaine Republican. Messrs. Askren and Darwin began their buildings about the same time, the former on Main Street, the latter on Boggs Street, (it was expected that Boggs Street would prove the principal street). Mr. Askren's building being the smaller of the two was completed first, which fact, caused Mr. Darwin to stop work on his building and it remained in an unfinished condition for many years, when it finally passed into other hands and was finished.

"Col. DeGraff, also, superintended the building of the New York Central and many of the Ohio railroads. He followed the railroads west and became one of the earliest settlers in Minnesota."

Also, in connection with this article, a description of the barbeque given to celebrate the completion of the Big Four (then called the Indianapolis and Bellefontaine Railroad) to DeGraff, will be of interest. The following is a portion of the correspondence printed in The Logan County Gazette (now the Bellefontaine Examiner) in November 1852:

"I understand that two efficient companies of 'track layers' are putting down rails as fast as possible. One company, going west from DeGraff and another, coming on from Sidney to meet them. They are now only about two miles apart, and in two weeks, it is contemplated to have the entire line completed from this place to Sidney. On Tuesday, the 9th of November, the inhabitants of DeGraff got up a splendid dinner, by way of a celebration, of the completion, of the road to their town. The stockholders, and many of the citizens of Bellefontaine and its vicinity as well as the farmers of the surrounding territory, were invited, and a

special train of cars came up to Bellefontaine, to convey the guests to the scene of action.

"We left Bellefontaine a little after one o'clock and arrived in DeGraff in a little over twenty minutes, where truly, a sumptuous repast awaited us. The table was spread in Mr. Boggs' large new warehouse and was prepared to accommodate two hundred persons; and literally groaned under the weight of the good things, substantial and delicacies prepared to regale us. The roast beef and pork—and such roast beef—it would have done credit to the table of a beef eating English alderman—or been good enough for one of Uncle Sam's office-holders, without the two dollars a day. And the turkeys—ah me! Many a stately fat gobbler came to his last account on that day without his ever being charged of a crime. And after all, the dessert—we had pastries, cakes, pies, and sweet meats in abundance, which the ladies of DeGraff and vicinity (many of whom also graced the scene with their presence and their smiles) know so well how to get up.

"After all was ready, and the guests had surrounded the table, attention was called and before we were invited to reach and help ourselves, a poetical address was read by Fber Hodge, Esq., the poet of Miami, composed by himself for the the occasion. The address was a good one and spoke poetically of "The iron horse with lungs of fire and breath of flame."

"After the weight of the table was materially diminished (though plenty was left) and the repast was over, we had speeches by Y. A. Smith, Esq., Judge Bennett, and Gen. Gardner, all of Bellefontaine. They all spoke elokuntly of the good cheer we had received . . . Judge Bennett reminded them that he had spoken to them on the subject of the railroad before it was built, he had addressed them a few years before to induce them to take stock. The town of DeGraff at that time was not in existence. The plot on which it now stands was an unbroken wilderness. Now it is a thriving, flourishing village, with stores and taverns and fine dwelling houses, all built within two years. He congratulated the citizens of DeGraff on the commercial advantages which the growing road would afford . . . he concluded with a toast to the ladies, which was responded to, by three times three hearty huzzas."

So, D. E., there is your answer, not from any historical publication, but from the pages of an old scrap book that is full of moths (our mother wouldn't allow them in the house; they have been in the garage) and smells of sour paste. There is also, a poem about the old-timers in the old scrap book, which will warm the cockles of your heart. (The poem is entitled, "When I Was But a Lad," written by Will Hendersan, and will be found in the poetry section.)—Fern Burdette, DeGraff Journal, George Himes, Editor, January 6, 1949.

Poem Delivered at Big Celebration in 1852

Thanks for the scrap book, Fern. It tells the story of the Big Celebration of the railroad coming to DeGraff—and it wasn't a through train, but a special train to DeGraff only, for promotion of the railroad.

We were right in assuming, that it was a couple years after the town was plotted before the railroad was in operation. In these days of house shortages, it is hard to comprehend that DeGraff was built up to quite a town in only two years. The house builders in my early days, and many of them were here at the start of DeGraff, were the Pegans—Old Johnny, James, Frank, John, Jr.; Ben Hudson, Harper Huston, the Harmons—Mike and Dave; James Hayes, the Fulmers,

A. R. Walker (and sons, Wm. and Al), the Johnsons—Frank, Chayme, Os and Marion; Frank Keating, Thos. O'Neal.

Undoubtedly, our father and grandfather were at this dinner party at the Boggs elevator. The third floor of this elevator was used for all public occasions until Youngman & Strayer built in 1870, the second floor of the building adjoining the bank, into a public hall.

In our early days in the store we would hear as much German spoken as English. Schools have eliminated the language, customs have changed, but for the most part, the religion is unchanged.

We are pleased to present the original poem of Eber Hodge, the property of the Shawans. It had been presented to their grandmother, Susan Koch, who was Susan Kinsinger at that time. Now, who was Eber Hodge? Surely not the Eber Hodge who lived in Bloomfield Township, and who was of our generation. The signature looks more like Eben than Eber. And so prophesieth, the poet of the new DeGraff, 97 years ago.

"Written on the occasion of the social gathering at DeGraff on the 9th of November, 1852, to celebrate the first arrival of the cars at that place.

By Eber Hodge

"Thrice welcome from ten thousand tongues,
Your iron horse with fiery lungs,
We hail you as we might and should
The harbinger of coming good—
We greet thee—western farmers' team
With red hot lungs and breath of flame—
This day we meet on social cheer
To celebrate your presence here.
DeGraff with health and plenty blest
Salutes as a welcome guest—
An engine strong with pride elate
(Named from our noble Buckeye state)
Will move us on where'er we need
With safety, comfort, ease and speed.
For soon the splendid passage cars
Will shake our streets with thundering jars
And those of freight—a lengthy train,
Bring from the west the golden grain.
The farmer proud with coin in hand
Returns with joy to prairie land
While others bring such merchandise
To greet their neighbors' eager eyes—
And in all ears rich music chimes—
Our lot is cast in railroad times.
So let us sing of railroad bands
Which bind in union distant lands
And then the thought such comfort lends,
The cars will bring our distant friends.
But chiefly in our own behalf
We wish to sing of young DeGraff
And laud her as a blooming child
Just flow'ring mid the woodland wild.
Soon she'll become a maiden proud,

Her engines' whistle sound aloud—
 The country round for many miles
 Rejoice at her enchanting smiles,
 And treasures from the neighboring farms
 Flow into grace her modest charms.
 And may she ever be possessed
 Of virtue pure in fair one's breast,
 And beauty bright in grand display,
 Like those who honor us this day,
 Whose charms will never be outshone
 Unless by daughters of their own.
 May she become, in splendor dressed,
 The leading lady of the west,
 Have frequent ups, but never downs;
 The same we wish of sister towns.
 That each take the other by the hand,
 Rise up in wealth and firmly stand.

Facts About DeGraff's First Railroad

After, having searched high and low for a record of when and how the railroad came to DeGraff, we have been furnished some valuable information by one of our own boys, Harold Potter, who works for the New York Central Railroad.

Mention is made of meeting in Logansville, which would indicate, that they were considering routing road via Logansville. In case, this had been done, there would be no DeGraff today.

"Recently, when Harold Potter, assisting purchasing gent for the New York Central Railroad, New York City, was called here by the death of his mother, Mrs. Hattie Potter Baker, conversation led up to the "First Train" and he remarked that he would send a book which he thought we would find interesting, and a few facts pertaining to the beginning of the story. Here, we have his note:

New York City
 May 25, 1949

Dear Sis:

Am sending the book, which I spoke to you about. After, reading the various articles on DeGraff's history I wish I could contribute, but, I am afraid I wouldn't be of much help. Suffice, to say, that it is my home town, of which I am proud. Completed my schooling in the DeGraff school and during that time was Shoemaker's delivery boy, with the old horse and wagon . . . I am quite sure you will find something interesting in the book.

As ever, your friend,
 Harold Potter.

We have read the book. The author, Alvin F. Harlow, has devoted a large chapter to the Bee Line, and we quote:

"The B. & I. was incorporated February 25, 1848, just eight days later than the Indianapolis & Bellefontaine, to build from a junction with that road to the C. C. & C. at Galion. Hugh Thompson, an attorney of Sidney, was elected president and the first corporation meeting was held in his office. For sometime thereafter, the board met any, and everywhere. Some minutes are headed

"Logansville, John Dickson House." (We are told this is the home of the late Mrs. Monta DeWeese Dill in Logansville). Others were held at Sidney Court House, sometimes they were at Quincy, at Bellefontaine, at a law office in Cleveland and finally at Marion, where they had settled down and established headquarters. Construction did not begin until 1851 and the rails did not enter Union City until 1853. In 1863 the Bellefontaine & Indiana's entire property was mortgaged to Amasa Stone, Jr., as security for \$791,000 in bonds, it was given a new name, "The Bellefontaine Railroad," and from here comes the origin of the famous nickname. Bellefontaine Railroad was too much of a mouthful for railroad men and they shortened it to B. Line. Quite naturally "B" suggested Bee, and Bee Line became an advertised boast of the road's directors. In January 1868, the C. C. & C. increased its capital stock to \$12,000,000 and cut a \$1,500,000 melon to win the stockholders' approval to reorganize and take in Bellefontaine. This was done and on May 16, 1868, a new corporation emerged—the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati & Indianapolis, thenceforth for 21 years to be famous as the Bee Line.—Fern Burdette, DeGraff Journal, dated June 23, 1949, George Himes, Editor.

Early History from Pen of DeGraff's First Baby

"Miss Carrie Galer brought us a DeGraff Journal dated June 7, 1929 which contained a long article about the early days in DeGraff, written by C. S. Lippincott, of Marion, who was "DeGraff's first baby." Since DeGraff seems to be "history conscious" we are taking the liberty of publishing the greater part of the letter, which tells of early DeGraff as Mr. Lippincott remembered it. Miss Mary Pond, now Mrs. W. C. Vetterling, of Cleveland, was editor of The Journal at that time."—George N. Himes, Editor DeGraff Journal, dated March 31, 1949.

MR. LIPPINCOTT'S LETTER

I am giving you some ancient history of DeGraff as I remember it from my youth up to 1878. I was the first baby to be brought into town, being born February 20, 1851. I arrived in DeGraff when I was three or four months old. The first school I attended in DeGraff was a one-story frame building on the south side of Mill Street, just west of the Lewis Taylor property, A. J. Longfellow (called Jack) being the first teacher.

Some of the first scholars were: Harrison, Thomas, and Newt Smith, James and Frank Murphy, and others. The next school I attended was the Galbreaths, the scholars being Jacob Huber, Daniel Spellman, Amanda Harbor, Nancy and Ellen Lippincott, Andy and Will Huber, William and Gilbert Galbreath, myself and others.

The next was a one story frame that stood on Race Street, where the Joseph Weller property now stands. The teachers were Maggie Runyon, Daniel Spellman, Prof. Griffin, Amanda Harbor, Rev. Galbreath, and David Moury. The scholars were: Charles and Adelaide Taylor, William and Gilbert Galbreath, David Ghane, Margaret Ghane, John and Matty Pegan, Anna Hopkins, Thomas Cookston, Joe Cookston, myself and others.

School was held in the Town Hall while the first brick building was being built. The first professor in this school was David Moury, who was followed by Professor Wagner. Among the older scholars were: Anna Hopkins, Turner Stewart, Charles, Adelaide, and Caroline Taylor, Dr. M. A. Koogler, Dr. Warnick Hamer, Dr. John Wolfe, Benjamin Albach, Thomas and Joe Cookston, John Long-

fellow, McCawley brothers, Rairdon brothers, Wm. Boyer, Wm. Kinsinger, my brother Samuel, myself and others.

The first doctor in DeGraff, as I recollect, was Dr. R. C. Gilcrest, and what, recalls him to my recollection, is the fact that, they said he was unfortunate with horses, all of them dying. Uncle Billy Boggs brought him a mule which he rode. Dr. Gilcrest and Dr. Galer practiced medicine in partnership for a time. Another early doctor was Dr. Hance, who rode horseback and kept a supply of drugs.

The first church built in town was built by the Presbyterians and was occupied jointly by them and the Baptists for a time. The first Presbyterian pastor was Rev. Galbreath, and the first Baptist Pastor was Rev. Bower. Among the members of the Presbyterian Church were the Sam and Andy Huston families, the Henry Huling family, the Matthias Koogler family, and others.

Some of the members of the Baptist Church were: Evan Schooler, Frederick Custenborder, A. J. Lippincott, Samuel Lippincott, Sr., and their families. The Baptists later on built a brick church, and Rev. A. J. Wiant was their pastor.

The Methodists built a frame church which was later destroyed by the cyclone, and Rev. Leach was their first pastor. The church was constructed by John and Elzy Pegan, the latter falling from the upper joists to the lower and dying as a result of the accident. Some of the families I remember were the Charles Cookstons, the Jerry Spellmans, Dr. Gilcrest, Squire Smith, the Pools, and others.

The first hotel was built and operated by Joseph Parks. He leased or sold it to Henry Clay Scott, who later enlisted in the army, and the hotel was taken over by Frank Bull. The first grist mill was owned and operated by William Boggs, later by Mr. Koch, then by Jesse and Frank Valentine, then by Schriver and Neer. They also operated a portable saw mill. The next saw mill was owned by Cyrus Humphreys, and the next one by George Lippincott and Henry Weller. The first newspaper was published by Will Marion, who was the husband of Annie Youngman. The first music was furnished in the village by an orchestra composed of Fisher, the barber, Frank Fisher, his son; John Pegan, and myself. Later they organized a brass band.

I well remember the cyclone of 1872 which first struck the mill, taking off the roof and turning it on its foundation, unroofing numerous houses, some of them being torn down and destroyed. One particular happening, I remember it did, was to take a valuable imported horse from the ground floor of a barn and deposit him in the haymow, taking the roof off the barn.

On seeing the cyclone coming I found I had urgent business north of town, and exceeded all speed records in arriving there. I ran a half mile and stopped at the first house and called the occupants out to witness the storm as it passed over DeGraff.

The first railroad built through DeGraff was the B. & I. R. R. and my father boarded quite a lot of the workmen, and furnished quite a lot of ties. My father, Andrew J. Lippincott, was one of the incorporators of the Village and was elected first Mayor. Frank Johnson was the first Marshall and Newt Castle was the first man arrested. My father was one of the incorporators of the Greenwood Cemetery. The lands for the Greenwood Cemetery were donated by Harriet and Nancy Murphy.

C. S. Lippincott

Comments on Article by Chris Lippincott

OUR NOTE:—We appreciated the re-publishing of the C. S. Lippincott article. It ante dates our scrap book by several years. We moved from Allen County to DeGraff in February, 1864, and there our scrap book begins. The Lippincott memories list Margaret Ghaney, as a scholar in her day. We are surprised that she ever attended school. The Morgan Ghaney's lived back of the Joe Weller residence.

The school house Lippincott tells of attending, west of the Lewis Taylor residence, must have been a building just south of the Taylor residence and occupied in our day by Vic Connelly, as a cooper shop. One Saturday afternoon, we were playing in the Harris field when word came to us that Vic Connelly had hung himself in his shop. Everybody broke for the scene, but there was no bridge over Bokengehelas Creek and there was high water and the only way to get across, was over a suspended log. Other boys would walk the log, but we kids straddled it and shinned across. Vic, was a prominent Mason, jolly in disposition and well liked. He left two sons, Frank, the older, was in my class in school, became an expert plasterer and moved to Baltimore. Andy, the younger, his mother having died when he was a baby, was taken by the Samuel Boyer family. He learned telegraphy under Emmet Fetterman and became night operator. As he was a jolly fellow the telegraph office was a favorite resort for our evenings. He ultimately moved to Union City, married, and his son George is train dispatcher for the N. Y. C. lines at Bellefontaine today.

The Lippincott history tells us of holding school in the Town Hall. Since our Town Hall was not built until some twenty years later, we are at a loss to locate the hall. Our scrapbook tells the story. What was used as a town building was the upstairs room over what is now the Armstrong & Kinnan hardware store.

The scrapbook evidence:

"Oct. 24, 1865. School was taken up today over the Smith Shoe Store. Margaret Moore taught the young ones and Moury the old ones."

Thos. J. Smith was the shoe dealer and he moved his shoe store up to the northeast corner of the public square when his father, Isaac Smith, completed the building in 1867. And ultimately became postmaster in the present location.

Margaret Moore married William Rea and as a result of that union there are numerous Rea boys and girls who went out in the world and reflected credit on DeGraff and its schools.

Into the building, vacated by Smith our father moved his stock of goods in 1870, using the rear upstairs for a tailor shop, presided over by William White. The front upstairs was occupied by a Mrs. Swan, with millinery and dress making. It was reached by an outside stairway. We should know, for we used to carry notes from Jake Lipp to daughter Minnie at 10 cents per, thereby being "accessory before the fact"—for they were subsequently married.

The Captain Lewis Taylor family were among the prominent people in early DeGraff. He built the brick house at the corner of Mill and Race Streets, was elected to a county office and moved to Bellefontaine, and his family moved west. In 1891 on our first trip to California, we called on Frank Taylor and his younger sister, Nellie. They were living on a ranch near Dixon, California.

Some twenty years ago when visiting the late Wm. E. Henderson at Sacramento, Calif., who passed away in his 93rd year, he told us that an old lady who saw our name in the paper, said she knew us and wanted us to come and see her. The name she gave, we never had heard before, but we went to the address and when an old lady admitted us we gave our name and asked, "Did we ever know you?" She said she once was Adelaide Taylor and that she used to come to our house often when we were young boys. And then, we remembered that she came to our house one evening, having walked down the railroad tracks from where she was teaching school. Mother asked her if she wasn't afraid to travel alone, so she reached in the folds of her dress and drew out a revolver, saying she wasn't afraid to go anywhere alone.

We rememeberd that she carried a revolver when she was teaching school in the Turner-Kinsinger school district—she was twenty years old. Adelaide had gone a long road from the bright vivacious twenty-year-old girl that I knew.

Frank Fisher had a barber shop in a railroad box car, that was located between Dr. Hance's house and the Farm Bureau Elevator. He became a hero in our youthful eyes because of his nerve and bravery. A crew of railroad section men got hold of some bad liquor and went on a rampage down by the engine house. When Marshall Henry Wheeler sought to quiet them, one of them knocked Wheeler down the gravel pit and defied any arrest. So Wheeler reported to the Mayor that it would require the Sheriff to go into that drunken crowd. Then up spoke Frank Fisher, "Give me a warrant for Tommy—I'll bring him in." He did.

1860 to 1870 Period

Civil War — Logansville Merchants Journal of 1851

The Tragic Era — Lincoln was elected President in November 1860 and 1861 was to initiate the beginning of a Civil War. In the beginning of the year, there was gloom and fearful apprehensions in the north. South Carolina was going to secede—and did. Notwithstanding the prospects of war, the author of this article was born to this world, the date, February 1, 1861. When Lincoln called for 75,000 troops to put down the rebellion, our father was living on a farm near Lima. As soon as the call for volunteers was made, the neighbor boys gathered up a company and made father Captain. Years later, we used to study "Hardee's Tactics" until we knew the Manual of Arms. Father drilled the company, but, owing to having a family of five children, the oldest only seven years of age, he couldn't leave them and go with his company. His hired hand went and for three years he sent his army pay for father to keep for him. We have a pack of letters, yellow with age, that have been preserved, giving descriptions of battles in which he took part. His name was Steph Kent.

Father moved to DeGraff in February, 1864, and in May of that year, enlisted in the 132nd Regiment, which was formed wholly from Logan County, many from DeGraff and vicinity. This regiment was formed to meet an emergency. Grant had found Lee invincible on defense, as had McClellan, Burnside, Hooker, and Meade. Taking advantage of rivers and mountains, he could not be out-flanked and direct assault was too costly, as Grant had found at Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor, so he was leaving a screen of soldiers fronting Lee and moving his army by water around to Lee's rear. As he must have fresh troops, to guard his supplies on the James River, these green regiments were sent at once without any seasoning, to City Point, to Bermuda, and to other points, so that Grant's army faced Lee from the south of Petersburg. Such was the beginning of the end of Lee's army.

From an old memorandum we quote, "April 5, 1865—word has just come that Richmond has been taken and most of Lee's Army. We have been down town and they are having a big bonfire. They burned up sleds and sleighs and the schoolhouse seats, and Squire Smith threw in his plug hat, as did others. They rang the church bells and Rev. Morrison (Methodist minister) made a speech."

They were misinformed as to the surrender of Lee's Army by several days.

In the following years our father's store was a favorite loafing place for these soldiers. They sat around on the counters and cracker barrels and they "fit and spit" and discussed narrow escapes, with us, apt listeners. They became a part of the Grand Army of the Republic and they banded together to help each other get pensions, and if a hospital experience was necessary for the pension, they would furnish it somehow. Since the Democrats of the south did not participate in pensions for their soldiers and usually opposed pensions in Congress, the G. A. R. gradually drifted into a G. O. P. and they dominated all elections. Along in 1880 they began giving "Red chair parties" whenever any of their number had a birthday and would present him with a red rocking chair.

The officers who served from DeGraff were: Captain Joseph Shriver and Lieutenants Harper Huston and Daniel Koch of the 132nd regiment and Captain Lewis Taylor and Lieutenants Arch Stewart and Joseph W. James of the 45th regiment. They are gone but not forgotten. Following the close of the Civil War, DeGraff grew rapidly. Isaac Smith built the two-story brick building (the post office corner) in 1867, although the Sandusky-Louisville Railroad still had a lease on the land. P. J. Galer in 1868 built the brick building that now houses the bank.

In 1870 R. T. Youngman and Wilson Strayer moved down from Logansville and built the two-room building connecting the Galer building to the south and they fitted up the second story for an entertainment hall with stage and accessories, and the third floor of the elevator building that had served our people for some eighteen years became an antique. In 1868 a gravel pike was built through DeGraff from West Liberty and on north through Logansville and Bloom Center to Santa Fe. It was built by Frank Keating and Howard Welsh, the cost of same being paid by taxes on abutting properties, and thus Main Street was made passable in wet weather. In our day we have seen twelve inches of mud on Main Street and all traffic done on horseback. The pike brought trade to DeGraff from as far as Santa Fe.

At an early date a hotel was built at the corner of the alley where stands the Notestine property, South Main Street. It was occupied in early days by Frank Bull. James Askren came here from Logansville in 1851 and built the railroad hotel, using one room for his store. The hotel passed into the hands of Eads and Tully, who came here from Spring Hill. Later, the widow Cargill took it over and it was known as the Miami Hotel. Her two boys, Will and Deck, were the office boys, and it was a popular loafing place in our young days.

Within our life span have come all the labor-saving machinery of the farmer—have come electricity and its many uses—the radio, the phonograph, the telephone, automobiles, airships, the moving pictures. You may wonder how we lived without any of these inventions: Well, we thought we had made great progress from the days of our grandfathers. We listened to their stories of how they came to Ohio from Virginia over the old national road (route 40 now) sleeping in their wagons at night—and now we had railroads.

In their day, all grain was cut with a scythe or cradel—now we had the reaper, which laid the wheat out in rows ready to be raked up and bound. And we had sewing machines. How we used to ponder on the efficiency of the sewing machine and wonder what wizard invented it. Money was scarce and labor cheap. \$1 per day was the standard wage and the hours per day from sunup to sundown.

And our manner of living was in keeping with the wage. For lights, homemade candles were used, although most families had a parlor lamp. Wood was used altogether for both heating and cooking and the ashes deposited in an ash hopper, where, by adding water, lye was produced, and from the lye came the soap we used. We had no worries about inability to get soap powders and soft soap was not as bad as it looked. We well remember the little square coffee mill we used to hold between our knees and turn the crank, for all coffee came only in the grain and had to be ground. There were no refrigerators in those days, but, we always had ice—our own packing. Most families had an ice shed or shared with someone. Thicker ice could have been had from the race and was nearby, but practically all ice came from the Miami river. In mid-winter, when ice was nine inches thick as many as fifty men were busy sawing and getting out ice, just north of the old covered bridge of that day. In connection with our woodhouse we had a smokehouse where meat was cured, and neighbors joined together in butchering. Meat and foods were the least of our handicaps. One could go to the butcher shop and get a whole soup bone for 10 cents.

We had many relatives in those times and much company and then it was that the children slept on comforts laid on the floor. That was no hardship comparable to having to wait for the second table for eats. There were no mattresses and the beds were equipped with ticks filled with feathers or straw. In my early days, in the store we carried as much ticking as muslin. It took nine yards for a tick and feather ticking sold for around 20 cents and straw ticking for 10 cents.

Instead of radio and movies we had home talent plays and chose-up spelling matches, with an occasional outside troop playing "Uncle Tom's Cabin" or "Ten Nights in a Bar Room" and we had more general attendance at the churches, of which we had four, including the Catholics.

We have in our possession a leather-bound journal used by a Logansville merchant in the year of 1851. Who he was does not show in the records, and how it came into our possession we know not—probably left in one of the storerooms we acquired. It seems appropriate to use the contents of this journal to get a comparison of prices before the Civil War and some ten years before DeGraff was on the map. This merchant begins his career with an entry at the top of the page, "Logansville, May 12, 1851," and he persists all the way through the record with "Logansville" and the date at the top of each page.

Since, at this time, the railroad was being built west from Bellefontaine and to go through DeGraff instead of Logansville, we may assume this merchant was wondering what effect it would have on his business. Among the first day's charges were the following, who were, or became, residents of DeGraff: R. T. Youngman, one of our oldest merchants; Isaac Smith, who built the brick building the post office is in; and Dennis Warner, our original tailor.

Here is a list of prices: Sugar, 8 1-3 cents; coffee, 12½ cents; cheese, 8 cents; eggs, 4 cents; glass of wine, 5 cents; Dog Leg tobacco, 4 cents; brandy, per quart, 62 cents; beer, per quart, 5 cents; beer, per dozen bottles, 40 cents; rosen soap, 12 cents; saleratus, 12 cents; molasses, per gal., 62 cents.

These were the prices in 1851, but in 1852 this merchant, not fearing the inflationary effect, raised his price on eggs to five cents, which, according to Bowles and Porter raises the cost of living 25 percent. We find many charges of "dish of oysters" 20 cents, which would suggest sort of a lunching place. We find the following entries: Paid Isaac Smith for 3¾ days services in grocery, \$1.87.

Paid Allen Graffort for services in grocery 28 cents. This journal closes abruptly in December, 1852, and passes into other hands.

Who was this merchant? The oldest inhabitants around Logansville have not been able to tell us. We find this name on the fly leaf of the journal, "Joseph Brandenburgh—paid \$2.50 July 18. We next find the book containing pages of memoranda of sawed lumber, belonging to Howard Welsh and James Place. Their charge for sawing lumber was 50 cents per 100 feet. Their sale price of lumber was: Flooring \$1.20 per 100 feet; paling 40 cents per 100 feet; sheeting \$1.00 per 100 feet. The wages they paid were 50 cents per day. Again in December same party began work at \$8. per month. Samuel E. Baughman and Tom Dillon also worked at this mill. And where was the Mill?

We have, since writing the above, learned that one James Moore came from Urbana in 1819 and built a grist mill on the west bank of the Miami River—and later built a sawmill—these became the property of John Long and belong to the Long family today.

1870 to 1880

The Business Directory of 1873 – The Tornado of 1872

THE period from 1870 to 1880 was the greatest growth of DeGraff. The Thatcher brothers came from Champaign County, bought the Weller-Lippincott saw mill, enlarged it, and obtained a contract from the railroad for an immense order of railroad ties and at one time had forty teams hauling logs.

Now follows a list of the business houses in DeGraff in September 1873. The population as taken by Henry Wheeler was 711. The following is a business directory of DeGraff, as of August 1873:

Dry Goods, Cory & Strayer, R. T. Youngman, William Strayer, Shriver, Wolf & Company.
 Groceries, J. W. Shoemaker & Son, J. T. Roll, I. N. Richison, Mack Chamberlain, J. Cargill, S. A. Cole.
 Bakery, William Valentine.
 Tinner, Samuel Frantz.
 Harness Maker, J. P. Wishart, Lipp and Cretcher.
 Druggists, Brown & Bull, P. J. Galer.
 Boots and Shoes, T. J. Smith (also Postmaster).
 Blacksmiths, Eph. Armstrong, Charles Gessner, Dan Spade, James Scott.
 Wagon Maker, David Weaver.
 Carriage Maker, C. L. Rogers.
 Physicians, J. A. Brown, F. M. Galer, J. F. Hance, R. S. Gilcrist.
 Jeweler, T. L. Johnson.
 Hardware, Graffort Company.
 Hotels, Frank Bull, J. Cargill.
 Brick Mason, A. R. Walker, Simon Fulmer.
 Carpenters, John Pegan, Sr. and son, Ben Hudson, Hugh Runyon, Harper Huston, George Harnish, James Williams.
 Miller, George M. Nicewaner, and Josh Baughman.
 Warehouse Dealers, Shriver, Wolfe & Company; Weller, James & Co.
 Undertakers, Jacob Rexer, John F. Rexer, Sr.
 Dental, L. L. Dunbar.

Bankers, Mitchell, Harris & Company.
Ministers, J. W. Miller (M. E.), and G. W. Taylor (Baptist).
Coopers, Vic Connelly, Charles Lippincott.
Tailors, Dennis Warner, William White, E. B. Reaves.
Butchers, Adam Griep, Henderson & Brunson.
Milliners, Mrs. N. Swan, Mrs. William Strayer, Mrs. Elizabeth Jacobs.
Barber, John Boyd.

There were these in the shoe making industry: Mike Sullivan, Dan Bontriger, Gottleib Myers and his sons, Jacob, Charlie, and Ed. Homer Callender had a picture gallery over the present post office. George Wolfe had a cider mill which was the mecca for all of us small boys at this time of year. There were plasterers and lathers, the Johnsons, Frank, Chaim, Os and Marion. There were a number of livery stables, Jimmy Fitzgerald and Tom Robbins. Along about 1876 came the Keyser boys, Lee and Carl.

Then there were the Thatcher brothers, Sam, Jonathan, Henry, and John W., with their saw mill, which probably brought more citizens to DeGraff than any other industry.

In 1872 was formed our first band. The members—Dan Spellman, W. A. Graffort, Houston (Big Four agent), Jake Myers, Eph. Armstrong, Dr. J. A. Brown, P. L. Neer, George Kinsinger, and Frank and John Pegan—drummers. The following year, Houston having died and several members resigned, these are additional members: James Neer and Homer Callendar, Ed Doan, Will Youngman, Peter Hartman, Ab. Thatcher, and High Taylor. A memorandum of that period is here quoted, "Our band drove all over town today in the new band wagon that James Pegan made them." If we were not tagging along after them, we must have been home with the measles.

In 1872 was formed the first Hook and Ladder Company. Joe Mohr was foreman, Snow Lawrence the assistant foreman, and Jud Taylor was climber. Hook and Ladder Companies were formed during that period for amusements, for contests. Our company was named THE TORNADOS, and every evening they came out for practice—running from the bank corner to the alley south, measured as forty yards. They must make the run, stop and the climber run up the ladder, and hook his leg over the top.

They were all fussed up with oil-cloth capes and red helmets and they were so proud of their outfit they would march out to the cemetery with their outfit, following the band, on Decoration Day—they were mostly boys of 16 to 18 years. They drew big crowds for their street practice and we distinctly remember Joe Moore running with trumpet to his mouth and yelling, "Go, go, go." A tournament was held in West Liberty with the following contestants: The "Crescendo" of Marion, "Stars" of Kenton, "Young Eagles" of Kenton, "Excelsiors" of Bellefontaine, "Atlantics" of West Liberty, and "Tornados" of DeGraff.

The prize was \$50.00 in gold. The "Excelsiors" won the 1st prize—time 37½ seconds. The "Crescents" won 2nd prize of \$25.00. The "Tornados" also "ran".

The big tournament of Fire Engineers, Hook and Ladders, and bands, held in September of that year in Bellefontaine was ably written up by ex mayor Bob Cook several years ago, as the biggest event that ever happened in Bellefontaine. And so it was, for we were there all day.

In 1876 A. Weller moved his dwelling house fronting Main Street around to front on Hayes Street and proceeded to build the present building adjoining

the drug store and finished the second floor for an amusement hall, with a stage fitted with scenic shifts—a very modern stage. And to this stage came some of the best comedy company of that period. We were sure of a week's engagement every year by the Kinzie Comedy Company and Felix and Eva Vincent Company.

Who remembers the "Union Spy"? It was a war play and it was so popular that it was repeated four times. The first two times was by Bellefontaine talent, then DeGraff engaged the leading talent that played for Bellefontaine. Bob Summerville of Troy and black Sambo, played by Al Golden of St. Paris, put on the show. The second night Jim Neer played "Sambo" and did just as well as Golden. The funniest character was Sam Lippincott playing "Pussy Vandunderspeck", corporal of the awkward squad. There were tableaux and music by DeGraff's leading quartette—P. L. Neer, Hugh Runyon, Kate Rathwell Turner, and Emma Strayer. We heard the play four times. We'd go to hear it again.

As we look over events of the decade here is just what happened. The head lines of this period in heavy type are "FAILURE OF JAY COOK," the great financier, accompanied with the failure of many banks. Another news item that brought forth lots of comment was the trial of the great preacher, Henry Ward Beecher, who was sued by Tilton for alienating his wife's affection. The jury disagreed, three thought he did, nine thought he didn't, and the public is still in the dark.

Here are some town ordinances of this period. "Ordinance prohibiting sale of ale, beer, or porter" published in the DeGraff "Banner". July 1871.

Milton Steen, Mayor

Wm. H. Bell, Clerk

Ordinance declaring the Sandusky-Louisville railroad a street, called Cretcher avenue. May 1879.

W. H. Barr, Mayor

W. H. Hinkle, Clerk

What a change that made. It converted a deep depression, filled with ashes, tin cans, and debris of every sort, with just a cow path on the west side, into a fine residential street. And now we give you the most spectacular sight your historian ever saw.

The Great Tornado

It was the 7th of June 1872—it was Friday and the last day of school, and when school was dismissed around 2 o'clock, we boys gathered in the school yard to play ball.

But we didn't play long—there was a humidity in the air that drove us to the shade.

At about six o'clock, while at the supper table, we heard a roaring noise, which at first we thought was a train, but soon it appeared to be too loud for a train, so we rushed out doors and there it was—about half way between DeGraff and Quincy—a great circular monster moving about fifty miles an hour. Roofs and timbers picked up at Quincy were circulating about 150 feet high. Fascinated and spell bound, we watched its approach, saw it pick up the roof from the grist mill which stood at the foot of Mill street, saw it pick up the saw mill leaving scarcely a trace. On it came, sucking up the water from the race and heading for the center of town.

This vast funnel shaped monster seemed to be bound as it progressed and when it hit the earth it took everything. As I watched its progress its outer

perimeter tore off the limbs of trees at the Joe Rathmell home (now the Funeral home) and then all at once everything was black. I rushed to a shade tree and hung on for dear life as it passed. Marl Rohrer's team of horses attached to a wagon dashed by, running away. The air cleared enough for me to see the roof on the John Kerr house on the hill east of town carried away.

And now we looked to see what damage we had suffered and found the roof of our home raised about an inch from its foundation.

Rushing down the street, we found the metal roofs from what is now the Rexer building and Bank building rolled up in the middle of the street—debris of every description filled the streets.

The storm center followed the alley south of the Rexer furniture store, on West Boggs street, it unroofed the Ghaney, O'Herron and Vankirk houses, struck hard on the east side of Boggs street, wiping out the cooper shop on Lippincott and Hershey; took off the roofs of all the houses on West Main Street from Richison's Grocery to the south (Miller Coal yard now) up to the bank building. Then it struck hard on East Main street, carrying away the Sam Frantz tin store, the Rall Grocery, an implement store and Christine Millinery store and picking up the Methodist church and depositing its timber in the gravel pit. The Methodist church stood on the Koke street alley corner—nothing was left of it but the foundation.

The fatalities all occurred in this alley. The Rall home and grocery stood where the Journal office now stands, Rall and his wife and two daughters, Lulu and Callie, and step-daughter, Van Moses, started to run up the alley just as the tornado reached them. They were buried under a mass of timbers and Lulu and Callie were killed. It was a gruesome sight. Will Warner was picked up and was found in the gravel pit under the timbers of the Methodist church, badly hurt. In the millinery store, were the Mrs. Gill, Cherry and Jacobs and a Miss Pence. They were all buried beneath the fallen walls of the building and badly hurt.

The rescue workers at once began to release them. The storm continued through the woods east of town for about three miles and masses of rubbish were found hanging in the trees and tin ware from the Frantz shop was in evidence for three miles.

Our first report from Quincy was that the town was completely wiped out with many fatalities. Later we learned that more were rendered homeless than in DeGraff but only one fatality.

Among the freaks the storm played was the following unexplained incident: Where the rear of the Roby garage stands was a large stable that housed a French Norman stallion. It was a substantial building, with a mow full of hay. When the storm was over, the building was gone, but the stallion stood in his stall over the hay. He was a fine magnificent animal, almost white, and he was munching hay when we arrived, just as if nothing had happened.

Another amusing incident concerned three men who were at the Cargill Hotel and who started to run south across the railroad.

They were caught up with the storm when they were opposite the Hough home. The foremost, Marion Johnson, threw himself flat on the ground with the protection of a stone wall; Lon Graffort followed on top of Johnson. The third man was a doctor from Kentucky who evidently thought well of the Ohio idea, as he piled down on Graffort. Now Marion Johnson was a large man weighing over 250 pounds, Lon Graffort was a tall thin man weighing about 125 pounds, while the Kentucky doctor was another heavy weight of 250 pounds. What a sandwich! It wasn't so funny to them at the time as it was after they unscrambled.

Over 3000 people visited DeGraff the following Sunday and many carpenters came to assist in repairs, among whom was Hugh Runyon from Mingo who adopted DeGraff as his home.

Good old Hugh. He could tell a good story to fit any occasion.

The above description is written after an elapse of 77 years, but the eleven year old boy will never forget the grandeur and terrific effects of that tornado.

DeGraff Banner, June 14, 1872, Dan Spellman, Editor

THE TORNADO

Villages of DeGraff and Quincy devastated—

Two little girls killed—

Many are wounded.

10,000 persons visit the ruins on Friday and Saturday.

On last Friday evening, while at supper we were startled by a loud report resembling distant thunder — the sound grew louder and then some called us to come see what a storm was approaching—we ran out and took in the situation at a glance and took our wife and babies to the cellar—when we knew it had passed and hastily emerged we saw that the tornado in its mad career had reached the center of the town. Bricks, shingles, rafters, large fragments of roofs were being hurtled rapidly, high in the air, knowing there would be loss of lives, we were but a moment in reaching the scene of disaster on Main Street.

How often we have tried to tell or describe the scene as we beheld it at that time. How often we have heard many of our citizens undertake to describe the scene as they beheld it that black Friday evening. They can describe the approach of the storm, how it looked, what they imagined it to be, and the resolution so quickly made on personal safety, but they break down in despair in attempting to paint the scene as beheld by all, during the first hour after the passing of the storm. Neither can we describe it with tongue or pen, we wish we could, and yet we must make the attempt, conscious of our inability to give to our readers who were not present, more than a faint idea of the sickening sight. The street was filled with people who crowded around the Christine property, which was occupied as residence by Mrs. Christine and millinery shop by Mrs. Gill, Cherry, Jacobs and a Miss Pence, who were buried deep under the ruins of the building.

The cries of the wounded, screams of women and children who had gathered around, the hoarse shouting of men who were lifting with super human strength the immense piles of lumber that lay over these suffering women is undescrivable. Now, we saw men carrying Mrs. Rall who had sought refuge with her family in the gravel pit just east of the Methodist Church and had been crushed to earth by the heavy timbers of the church. She was taken into Wisharts harness shop for treatment. Hearing, there were others where she was found, with great haste we sought the place and found Lulu Rall already dead and Callie Rall in last agonies of death. A litter was made from backs of church benches and the bodies taken to the store of Cretcher and Chamberlain. And now we found another body, Willis Warner, who was of our office, pinned down with heavy timbers from the church. He was carried to the home of Rev. Taylor, and was receiving such care as could be had under such circumstances. Heart sick, we start again down town without aim or purpose and find that the women under the Christine property have been rescued, some badly wounded. Just then a messenger arrived from Quincy with the report that the tornado had inflicted a loss to them worse than ours. This adds to the excitement here and the crowd becomes more terror stricken.

The street is impassable except to nimble footed passengers, being filled with roofs and timbers and debris of every kind. The dry goods room occupied by Billy Strayer and owned by Ben Cretcher is entirely unroofed, not leaving the joist or ceiling of the upper story. Grafforts agricultural room is almost a wreck. Shriver, Wolfe and Company building is unroofed and badly wrecked. The Mrs. Christine property is a complete wreck. The two story frame building occupied as a grocery and dwelling by the Rall family is a total loss. The residence of T. J. Smith is unroofed. Mrs. Bety Lippincott's residence almost destroyed. Office of Dr. J. A. Brown—total loss—two story business rooms of Sam Frantz, tinner, is total loss and stock of goods carried away.

M. E. Church, recently repaired, the most demolished building we have ever seen. Dwelling of Mrs. Vankirk and occupied by Oscar Brown, seriously damaged. Cooper shop of Charles Lippincott almost destroyed and contents carried away. Dwelling of John Vankirk moved from its foundation and Mrs. Ghaney's unroofed. John O'Herron unroofed. Mrs. Russel's house occupied by Mrs. Parks, badly damaged. Mrs. Carter's house totally destroyed. Two story room of J. N. Richison unroofed.

Cabinet shop of John F. Rexer badly damaged. Masonic Hall unroofed. Store room of Conrad Mohr damaged.

Brick building of Youngman and Strayer unroofed.

List of Casualties in DeGraff

Lulu and Callie Rall—killed. Mrs. Jacob—severly bruised. Jim Rall—badly bruised. Mrs. Rall—seriously injured. Will Warner—seriously injured. Mrs. Cherry—seriously injured. Miss Pence—skull fracture. Martin Rohrer—shoulder blade broken.

Losses

Sam Frantz—\$2600, Graffort & Co.—\$500, Ben Cretcher—1200, Shriver, Wolfe & Co.—\$4000, John Van Kirk—\$500, Youngman & Strayer—\$500, Conrad Mohr—\$500, Mrs. Gill—\$100, J. Rall—\$1200, Dr. Hance—\$900, Chas. Lippincott—\$500, Mrs. Parks—\$200, Mrs. Russell—\$400, Mrs. Christine—\$1000, Mrs. Ghaney—\$200, Chas. Lippincott—\$650, John F. Rexer—\$250, Methodist Church—\$2000, Tom Smith—\$300, A. E. Cory—\$200, Mrs. Carter—\$200, Masonic Lodge—\$50, Dr. J. A. Brown—\$200, John Kerr—\$1000, John O. Herron—\$50, Messrs Jacobs & Cherry—\$500, J. N. Richison—\$600.

Saturday morning we visited Quincy, the scene of desolation there was more appalling than in DeGraff; the course of the storm was through the entire length of the town and at least fifty buildings are destroyed and twenty families lost their homes and all contents and are left destitute. Miss Rose Chambers was fatally injured (since died). William Johnson, severely injured. The son of Joseph Chambers, shoulder crushed. Mrs. Clark, arm broken.

As we stand at the western extremity of the town and look eastward through the great gap made by the storm, we wonder how any could escape instant death. Chris Custenborder, living east of town, is the heaviest loser. His house and large barn is blown to pieces and much damage is done to his stock. His loss is over \$6,000. Next is Wm. Cloninger, who lost his home and work shop, and whose beautiful shrubbery is crushed and broken. The (Quincy) Baptist and Methodist Churches are wrecked. Staple's Block, Wolfe's Hotel, Odd Fellow's Building, Harry Kellison's, Art Mean's, Tom Rawling's, Mrs. Speece's all are some of the badly damaged buildings. Tom Patton's new shop, not quite completed, is totally demolished. We feel incapable of portraying the scene before us of this wide spread desolation."

How Town Emerged Better Than Ever

The ensuing years following the tornado of June, 1872, saw a lot of improvements in the way of buildings in DeGraff.

The Thatcher brothers, John, Henry, Sam and Jonathan moved here from Champaign county and took over the Weller-Lippincott saw mill site, establishing a large saw mill and lumber company.

In the years 1873 to 1876 the following business rooms were built: Gotlieb Myers, the brick building which now is part of the hotel; Frantz, the two-room building where the Building of Loan office is located; Weller, the Irving Mohr room. Cory built a brick store room alongside his dwelling house, which he occupied for a dry goods store in 1876. The Stuts and Harris bank was moved from its location south of the railroad into the Myers block, occupying the room now used as a barber shop. Milt Steen was its cashier. Billy Valentine moved his bakery from a building that stood where the Barnhart office building now stands, into the Myers block. Ultimately the partition was removed and the room there that housed the Allison Cole grocery was added, completing the building into a hotel.

W. W. Hamer and William Kinsinger conceived the idea of putting up a building on the northwest corner of the public square, ostensibly for a drugstore. Brick was acquired and excavations for a basement made, when it became apparent to them that since DeGraff already had two drugstores, P. J. Galer's and Weller and Bulls, a third drugstore would be just too much drugstore.

So they sold their brick, abandoned the enterprise and went into business in a little town in Indiana. But they left an unsightly hole that marred the appearance of the public square for some 12 years before it was built up.

On this lot stood a house then occupied by Milt Steen which was moved around on Boggs street and is now the Burdette house. The west part of the lot contained the shoe repair shop of Mike Sullivan, the feed store of John Reynolds and the livery stable of Tom Robbins. The incorporators of DeGraff were of the impression that all business would be done close to the railroad, and the original plot only went north to the square, and the council permitted the Sandusky and Louisville railroad project to run northeast to southwest diagonally across the square.

Our father sensed the idea that future business would center around the square so he bought half of the brick building of the Isaac Smith heirs, the south half on the northeast corner of the public square and moved into it in September, 1873. The following other firms were in business at that time: Dry goods—Shiver, Wolfe and Co., R. T. Youngman, A. E. Cory and Wilson Strayer. These might be classed as general stores since they all sold groceries and shoes.

Then there were the following groceries: Allison Cole, Mac Chamberlain, John Roll, John Shoemaker, J. N. Richison and James Cargill. There were also the boot and shoe firm of T. J. Smith. Now how did all these firms exist in such a small town, and we wonder yet.

For one thing, we had a pike running north as far as Santa Fe and in bad weather, drew trade from that distance, and the east to west roads were mostly dirt roads and there was little of Lake View and Jackson Center then.

A few years ago, there was some controversy as to who published the first newspaper in DeGraff. Many gave Jonathan Thatcher the credit. Not so—it was Dan Spellman. He had a little printing office run by Joe More and Will Warner was his apprentice. In 1870 he put out a small weekly sheet, calling it the DeGraff

Banner. Wishing to move to Bellefontaine, in 1873 he sold the Banner to Lon Graffort, who was a real estate agent and hardware merchant. Graffort enlarged the paper and put Jim Steen in, as editor. Steen was living here, part-time, as he was attending law school, with his uncle Milt Steen, the local banker.

In 1875 Graffort sold the paper to Jonathan Thatcher and his half brother Ab and for several years Ab was the editor. He was endowed with a wonderful bass voice, and was quite an addition to our musical society. But Thatcher's musical ambition and attainment outshone his editorial ability and we next find him featured in big headlines, "Thatcher, Primrose and West," a minstrel troupe that toured the country for many years.

In 1879 Jonathan Thatcher sold the Banner to Dan Spellman who renamed it the Buckeye and who by and by took Perry Pond as partner. In 1893 Pond retired from the Buckeye and started the Journal. The Buckeye continued some five years under the management of Jerry Spellman and was sold to the Boda's of Dayton and from them it passed into bankruptcy. DeGraff could not support two newspapers. During the Thatcher ownership of the Banner, the office was moved to the front room over our store room, the outside stairway providing access. The rear rooms were occupied by a dressmaker, a Mrs. Gill and her daughters, Dollie, Effie and Maggie. And thus it was that the composing and operating room of the Banner had a pestiferous observer and we took quite a kidding from Lon Graffort and Ab Thatcher.

In 1874 the council passed an ordinance decreeing that berca stone, three feet wide, must be laid all along Main Street and it was so done, but with much murmuring. The people were not used to being ordered around.

"January 1, 1874, the C. C. C. and I. railroad was sold to the New York Central R. R., the fare to Quincy reduced from 20 cents to 10 cents, and to Bellefontaine from 50 cents to 29 cents." And the new management instituted a service of cheap excursions, so that, we rubes in the country could see the outside world. There would be excursions to Dayton and the Soldiers Home, and to Columbus with conducted visits to the State House and the Penetentiary. The round trip fare was only \$1.50. An excursion to Cleveland good for two days with a ride on Lake Erie all for \$2.00. We have a memorandum that 85 went from DeGraff. Our band went on many of these excursions and if there were any we missed, we must have been sick. Although our recollection is that we never went to the "pen" but once. We never wanted a second trip to the pen or an insane asylum.

There were excursions to Niagara Falls for only \$4.00 and you could sleep in a reclining chair for only 25 cents or you could get meals and lodging at the Prospect Park Hotel for 50 cents each, so said the railroad advertising. It was our first trip to Niagara Falls.

During the decade of the 70's our work in the store was to fill the lamps and clean the wicks and on Saturdays, saw wood. A pair of whole stock boots which sold for \$2.50 could be exchanged for a cord of 4-foot hickory wood. And that wood had to be sawed to fit our store stove. Ever since, we shy away from a sawbuck and saw. Our original purchase invoice showed calico as selling for 15 cents, then for the next several years calico sold for 12 cents. Now in 1875 calico goes down to 9 cents and it never came up at least, not in same form. Calico was the biggest selling item in yard goods except muslin. Deflation is on its way.

"Between Quincy and DeGraff on, and bordering what is now State Route 69, lies a community named after Uncle Tommy Marquis, who with his wife was one of the first settlers, coming from Virginia even before the Miami Indians had gone.

It was always such a good spot to live in, that folks never cared to move away, and down through the years many were the good times they had, such as bob-sled rides, spelling bees, apple butter boilings and the like. For generations they have been knit in ties of friendship and still are.

Like all others around, ours was a good neighborhood. We mostly attended church in DeGraff and traded at Strayers, but we got our flour and meal at Allingers Mill and our mail delivery out of Quincy. Sterling Stiles has been carrier from young manhood and will soon round out forty years of service. We were between two good towns and liked both.

In my childhood a few names such as Stiles, Milner, West Kreglow were replaced by Notestine, Cline MacMoran, Barger. Ross; but the Marquis' lived with their daughter Mary E. Walker and the Painter family; and Uncle Doc Guilcris's farm was owned by his nephews, the Nichols brothers. The Pools, Smiths and Morgans kept watch on the river.

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There was one family however who never changed its name, the Archers, and with the passing of George R. Archer is gone one who knew our early history well. As a boy he helped the returned Miami Indian (Doc Knuckles) dig in vain for the pot of gold nuggets supposed to have been left by the tribe; and he trapped and hunted the woods for ging seng. He remembered waking up on winter mornings with an extra blanket of snow on his bed in the loft of the old log house where he was born; and he could tell how "69" was once nothing more than wagon track through the woods, and so full of chuck holes, folks often had to pry themselves out with a fence rail in muddy weather.

Yes, George would like to smile and say "Me Mither came from Mead County, Cork, Jingilly Cooch Ireland"—and that leads us up to the story of how she came to America.

In DeGraff, in 1856, there lived a quiet little man by the name of Billy White, a tailor by trade, and he too, and his wife were from "Meade Co. Cork Ireland"; and having done well in his shop over the old bank he got to thinking one day of the many somewhat underprivileged families of the "Auld Sod," so he wrote a letter home, urging the young people to come to America.

It struck a responsive chord, and in due time a boatload of young folks set sail for this land of opportunity and among them Jane Armstrong very young and unaccompanied by any of her family.

The story goes that all was well and fair sailing, and it wouldn't be long until New York would be sighted, when calamity overtook them in weeks of boisterous stormy weather that turned their sails and blew them steadily almost back to the nome coast.

Then came calm, and undaunted they started to cross the ocean again. When they finally arrived they had been eighteen weeks on the water, and towards the last subsisting on hard biscuits and water, and these rationed. So all were glad to see the shore line of America and none happier than Jane Armstrong—but also, trouble was in store for her.

When the authorities learned that she was under eighteen and had little money along, they were about to refuse her entrance.

Said they "who in America will look after you now?"

With sinking heart, Jane hung her head in deep thought, then answered brightly, "The Captain will!"

And bless his heart, the Captain did! He had admired her pluck in coming over alone, so he paid the necessary entrance fees, and took her to his home in some shore town, and she was maid to his daughter for a long period.

Finally Billy White located her and sent for her at once; and welcoming this happy turn of fate. Jane Armstrong came to DeGraff and made her home with her good Irish friends, and did the fine pressing in the tailor shop. (Her sleeve board is a cherished possession of the family and will no doubt be on display at the Centennial Exhibit.)

In any good story cupid plays a part, so in the course of time Jane met, and married William Archer, son of the John Archer's (another good pioneer family) and they settled in the Marquis neighborhood and bought the present Archer Homestead of his brother in about the year 1875.

They built their first house of logs, a part of which is still standing and four children, Frank, George, Rose and Charles blessed their home. Jane and all her generation were known for their warm friendliness and helpfulness to those around in times of need—"good neighbors" the good book calls it.

In time some of her people came over, a brother became an importer of fine horses and she had a sister Sarah in Detroit who married wealth, and was known to draw up her silken skirts a little as she entered her sister's early abode.

But Jane Archer never cared. She had found in America all that she had hoped for—friends, a home and happiness."

The above, is a portion of a letter, the DeGraff Journal, January 26, 1950, by Edna Ross. The characters, she mentions, we knew well in our early years. Billy White was our tailor in the years 1871 to 1873 and he occupied the upstairs room of the building we occupied, at that time. He was a rather large man, with a florid complexion, side whiskers, a perpetual smile and ready wit. He cut, fitted and made the coat, his wife made the vest and pants. They lived at the foot of Miami street and many a trip we carried pants to them to be made. Just how Jane Archer came into the picture, the above story is revealing to us for the first time, we do not remember ever hearing of her trip to America. She was a small woman, with a sunny disposition and with unbounded loyalty. Every week, we could count on Aunt Jane coming in, with butter and eggs, and if she couldn't find what she wanted at Strayers', she would do without. She was a grandmother to Ernest and Robert Reeder and a fine contribution to citizenship in America from old Ireland.

The Decade from 1880 to 1890

THE decade from 1880 to 1890 was the bicycle age and there was a great demand for bicycles and many a fall in learning to ride—especially from the high wheel type that was first brought out.

Roller skating was a popular amusement in this period, and Weller Hall was the source of many skating parties.

On August 27, 1886, the Mitchell Elevator caught fire and burned completely down, consuming 17,000 bushels of wheat, practically all of it belonging to farmers—none of it being insured. The warehouse played an active part in the early years, being used as a church, as a Masonic Lodge room, and as a place for social gatherings, for Christmas trees, and festivals, so there was deep regret over its loss.

In 1887, gas was struck in the Lima-Findlay territory, then, we organized a company to put down wells here. The first well was put down on the Harris farm, opposite the James Reid home.

Gas was struck at 1250 feet and was piped up town and connected with ten dwellings and stores on West Main Street, but the flow of gas was weak until another well was put down at near the junction of the Stony Creek and Miami River. A good flow of gas was found here, but soon salt water got into the well and ruined it. Well, number three, was put down near the rear of the present site of Harry Kooglers' home, but after going down 1306 feet, fifty feet being through rock, the well was abandoned.

Likewise, was one put down about three miles north of town on Route 69. Soon the whole enterprise was abandoned and an assessment made on the stockholders to pay the deficit. It was decided that only pockets of gas existed here.

One of the saddest accidents that occurred in DeGraff was the drowning of Flossie Hudson. She, with Mable Bigley and Hattie Johnson, was playing in the Rexer pasture north of town and Flossie fell off of a footlog into the Bokenge-helas Creek. By the time the alarm could bring rescuers, the body wasn't to be found. Rescuers dragged the creek with grappling hooks and poles, and some kept watch all night long at the dam, but the water was high and objects could

not be detected. The Council bell summoned the citizens for an organized search, which was kept up for four days. Finally, on Saturday, 8 a. m., March 31, 1888, a party down by the entrance of the Bokengehelas into the Miami River, found the body in some brush where it had caught.

Flossie was 11 years old, a bright beautiful and lovable girl, and her funeral on Sunday at the Methodist Church attracted thousands of friends.

An article by Fern, quoting from historians in 1880, will be introduced here.

What County History Says of Early DeGraff

About six years ago, the late Frank Maugans was in charge of the DeGraff Library, when it was located in the Rexer building, south of John Rexer's home. One day, we were passing, he called us to see a "History of Logan County" which had been presented to the Library by John Rexer. We scanned it, in a passive sort of way and not until now, have we found use for it. From it, we should like to set forth some facts pertinent to DeGraff and its environs.

Since 1880 was the date of the compilation and the historians, W. H. Perrin and J. H. Battle, long since dead, the reader will have to accept the dates and names as authentic. The writers have depended upon traditions alone and sanctioned some errors which are of trifling importance. This work was set up by townships and it is difficult to distinguish between Miami Township and DeGraff and Quincy history. However, it was generally known that the autobiographies therein of the residents at that time, were paid for at the rate of \$10.00 per person and each person was entitled to a book for free.

FROM THE HISTORY

The village of DeGraff was incorporated in 1864, with the first officers as follows: A. J. Lippincott, Mayor; Mathias Wolf, Recorder, and Krank Keating, Dr. R. S. Gilcrist, Gabriel Shoemaker, Samuel Prince and James Hayes, Councilmen. The first council passed at their regular session, an ordinance directing that a Marshall, Treasurer and Street Commissioner be elected annually. On the following April, Owen Concklin was made Marshall and John Shoemaker, Sr., Treasurer. In the following year grades for the streets were established and sidewalks ordered, and in 1874 improved sidewalks were required on Main, Miami, Boggs, Koke, Hayes, Moore and Church streets, some of them being of bereastone and others of gravel and brick. In 1877 the one-half of Lot No. 20 fronting on Main street, was bought at a cost of \$500 on which to erect a town hall. A fine two-story brick was at once erected at a cost of \$3300. In this building, on the ground floor, are the engine and hook and ladder truck, the Mayor's office and the lock-up. The latter consists of two roomy cells in the rear part of the building, lined with boiler iron on a fifteen-inch brick wall, and floored, stone on concrete. Until 1873 no provision had been made for defense against fire. In that year a hook and ladder truck was purchased at a cost of \$225 and a volunteer company formed to man it. On August 20, 1880, a No. 5 nickle-plated Silsby steam fire engine was received, with two reels and 1,000 feet of good rubber hose at a total cost for the entire apparatus of \$3750.

Two large cisterns, holding about 350 barrels of water each furnish the water supply for a portion of the town while the mill race, which encircles the town on the south, furnishes an inexhaustible supply of water for the larger part of the village.

The engine is propelled by hand, which is an easy matter where the roads never get muddy. The present officials of the village are: H. H. Barr, mayor; W. H. Hinkle, recorder; James Longfellow, marshal; A. Weller, treasurer; M. Wolfe, Dr. D. W. Richardson, S. K. Neer, James Hayes, Milton Richards and H. Thatcher, councilmen.—Fern Burdette, DeGraff Journal, April 14, 1949. George Himes, Editor.

We are interested in the incorporation of DeGraff—in its first Mayor and Council. We knew them in succeeding years; they were all good men but they were all democrats—now, we pay little attention to political homes but in my early days one had to be an exceptionally strong man to be elected to any office unless he be a Republican.

The officials named in this article, for the year 1880, were all Republicans, but three. There was much discussion preceding the purchase of the old Silsby Fire Engine. Previous to this purchase, the Council tried out a hand pump, similar to the railroad handcar propulsion—two men on each side would push down alternatively. Four men of the Council were trying it out at a cistern on South Main St.—Mat Wolfe, who was a small man, and his partner, were opposite Jas. Hayes, a muscular carpenter, and Frank Keating, a stone mason. In order to throw a little dinky stream to a house top, the latter couple put on power so at the end of ten minutes of demonstration, Mat Wolfe stopped, threw up his hands, and said, "It won't do." And so they purchased the Silsby and named it "William Boggs."

With all the hu-la-ba-loo that Miami, Florida has going on all the time, a former DeGraff girl takes time out to give her recollections of DeGraff. We think them worth while to reprint.

Mrs. Nell Buchanan Recalls Early Days

The following letter from Mrs. Nell Buchanan, of Miami, Florida, relative to her memories of early DeGraff, was received recently by Miss Fern Burdette, and published in the DeGraff Journal, April 14, 1949, George Himes, Editor.

6333 N. W. Miami Pl.
Miami, Fla.
April 3, 1949

Dear Sis:

Here are my impressions of DeGraff as I knew it and so without the aid of a scrapbook I see the principal square—first, Shoemaker's grocery with the town's only ice cream parlor on the north side, next, the Fire Department with the jail in the rear which now and then lodged an itinerate who had over-indulged in Quincy beer. Next, the Frantz jewelry store with weathervane in front, then Rexer's, Weidinger's meat market, post office and Wellers. Crossing the street, we came to the bank, Rexer's grocery, Arcade Hotel, Cory's large house back of the Buckeye tree, Cory's dry goods, Myers' shoe store, Mary Grant's millinery, and Summer and Thatcher's grocery.

As we entered one of the groceries we saw barrels containing flour, crackers, pickles, and of course "Soft A" sugar. If the lids were off, we usually put our hands down in one or two of them, but if they were closed, men were usually resting on them unless they happened to be lucky enough to get a chair by the open stove which served both as heater and cuspidor. Sugar was about 5c a pound, coffee and butter were from 10 to 15c and eggs around 10 to 12c a dozen. No

milk was sold in stores and we had to take a little tin pail to the neighbors and were always reminded we were getting an extra dipper full for good measure, so we would never have considered using milk bottles, even had they been available. Louis Pasteur had never been heard of and we were thankful to have our kind of pasture for the cows as the milk was always better and butter more yellow, although we have never been able to figure that one out. We could buy a chicken to fry for a quarter or a good roast and it would be tender, too. There was no ice in town except that hauled from the river or Silver Lake and packed in sawdust in Mat Wolfe's icehouse.

Two town pumps graced Main Street, one in front of the Post Office and the other down by the wooden Indian which stood in front of a cigar store owned by Brownie VanKirk's uncle, Jake Moses, who made cigars. Each pump had its own big rusty tincup and everybody drank from them. Then of course there was a well and watering trough on the corner of Main and Miami where the fire engine always filled up in case of fire. Nobody ever thought of missing a fire, either day or night and of course the men all had to go anyhow as they all belonged to the department and had to help pull the engine.

Matt Burdette's blacksmith shop was a place to play hide and seek and back of it, we made our mud pies. Then there was the barn where we held our "home talent" shows, charging pins for admission. One special feature was Bob Burdette reciting "The Village Blacksmith" with his Nanny goat as his victim. Once he forgot a line and walked off the stage (two boards over a stack of straw) in a huff because you tried to prompt him and it deflated his ego.

Marshal Mikel, "Buck" Cargill and my Dad were the pioneer checker players of the town and I never knew which one claimed the championship, but if all were still living, the feud would probably still be on.

I believe Della Rankin (Mrs. John Huston) had one of the first player pianos and no doubt sold an extra hat now and then because of it. It had to be pumped continuously by two foot-pedals on the right side.

Telephone calls were all taken from Weller's drug store, but later, I believe, we had one of the first telephones installed just from our home to the livery stable and all the neighbors came in to use it just to see how such a contraption worked.

The first train, "The Knickerbocker Special," due around 10 P. M. was reputed to run a mile a minute and we all went down to see it and decided it was a veritable demon and headed for the place all demons go.

Our first electric lights with the carbon bulbs on a long cord suspended from the ceiling were very dazzling after using lamps and the shivering "Arc" lights in the middle of the streets would blow and cast all sorts of weird shadows.

Our hobbies then were collecting bits of carbon falling from these lights and also catching lightning bugs, as we called them, and putting them in bottles. Our diversions were church "festivals," Epworth League "socials," and sometimes a medicine show advertising some genuine Indian Herb Tonic. Then, of course, there would be an Opera in Bellefontaine now and then. We never pestered our parents for money for the movies or a new bed-side radio, nor did they nag us to wash the ring out of the bathtub.

Nobody worried much about germs and we wore assafetida bags around our necks in winter to ward off disease (and everything else). We never tasted cod-

liver oil nor synthetic vitamins and it is a marvel that we have ever survived.

Our grade-school days passed quickly and we found ourselves face to face with the two busts on the front wall of the last room and I believe it was Noah Webster who glared at us when we split an infinitive and Julius Caesar when we dozed in the Latin class.

"Happy Daze" then and as there were not many detectives, no one asked us how we were able to get into the schoolhouse at 3 A. M. to raise our class flag. Now the old building is gone and with it, the steps which served us such a good resting place on the way home from the Thursday night Band concerts. There, we were never alone as someone else had always thought of it first.

So many things stand out in nostalgic memories that this could go on ad infinitum. (Learned that one day when Caesar was not looking.) Now at a distance of 1500 miles from the old home, have learned that we have a Miami river here, just seven miles in length and that it was named for a river in Ohio by the same name, by a unit of Ohio soldiers who camped on its banks during the Seminole war of 1836. One of them had lived on the banks of our own Miami. Then a Post Office was established on the south side of the river here and Federal authorities took the name Miami for the new postoffice. This article which appeared in our Miami Herald stated that the Miami River in Ohio was named after the Miami Indians who came to Ohio and Indiana from Wisconsin in the year 1700. It also states that the correct pronunciation is with a short "i." But whatever it may be, it seems the world is very small and that something is always reminding us of the days of yesteryear and we wonder what developments the next half-century will bring. And from a quotation,

"Under the spreading chestnut tree,
The Village Smithy lies
No one has a horse to shoe
So all he shoos is flies."

Sincerely,
Nelle

Fern's Note—We are not surprised to receive from Nell Hone Buchanan her impressions of DeGraff as she remembered it in her girlhood. She has never been able to shake DeGraff soil from her shoes and it was only a quirk of fate that, following her husband's death, she migrated to Florida instead of settling in the home town again.

Mrs. Buchanan's parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. James F. Hone, were highly respected citizens. Mr. Hone served as Democratic Mayor and carried on the then popular livery stable business. He was a man of sound judgment. Mrs. Hone, the former Amanda Offenbacher of St. Paris, organized the local order of the Eastern Star and was it's first Worthy Matron. Mrs. Buchanan's father-in-law, the late S. A. Buchanan, Civil Engineer of Logan County, "supervised the building of the finest bridge in Logan County, which crosses the Miami river immediately west of Logansville. It was built by the Cleveland Bridge & Iron Co. during the winter of 1879-80 at the cost of \$9,376."

"The Hone family first settled in Bloomfield Township and Mrs. Buchanan's grand-father, the late Henry Hone, built a log cabin in 1836 on land he purchased. Mr. Hone found when he reached the Miami that it was very high and no other means of crossing than the trunk of a fallentree. On the bank were a few huts, in which lived a number of half-breed Indians, who came out, but manifested no interest until, on inquiry, they learned that Mr. Hone had a small quantity

of spirits in the wagon. This being produced, they assisted readily in effecting a crossing. The goods were unloaded and carried over, the horses swam across, and tying a bed cord to the end of the wagon tongue, it was pulled through, the goods reloaded and the journey resumed. No charge was made except a few drinks of the "whisk," as they termed it," so says the History of Logan County.

In all probability Mrs. Buchanan never heard this yarn. We relate it because of her allusion to the Miami river in her letter.

"Characters" of Early Days

DeGraff used to have a lot of "chatty" characters who furnished a lot of amusement. We are going to try to describe one—

There lived across the railroad where the sales barn now stands, an Irish couple named O'Shaunessey, which they pronounced Shockensey, and they were familiarly known as Jimmie and Dollie. He was a section hand, very quiet except when in bad liquor, while she was "chatty" and quite witty and could make use of many words not in the dictionary. She was squat in figure, had a carrotty complexion with a stubby turned up nose but she always had a cheerful grin that won attention. She always appeared on the street wearing wide hoop skirts, an article that had been retired some ten years previously in favor of bustles and tilters.

So when Dollie sailed up the street, her hoops taking up much of the sidewalk, wearing a flat hat and brown veil, she looked like a moving helicopter.

Coming in the store we greet her, "Good morning, Mrs. Shockensey." "Good morning, Mr. Strayers." She always used the plural.

"Have you got some nice good red flannel to make Jimmie some shirts?"

"That we have, Mrs. Shockensey," pulling out several pieces. We put emphasis on one piece we think would suit here and tell her the price is 35c.

"And you can take thirty cints, Mr. Strayers," she says. And we tell her that this piece is pure Australian wool and won't itch Jimmie's back, is cochineal dyed and won't fade, but the price is 35c. Fixing her beady black eyes on us and with a most persuasive smile, she repeats:

"And you can take thirty cints." With a negative reply out she goes—maybe to return—maybe not—and so it was in all her shopping. So the only way to get along with her was to "up" the price 5 or 10c and then meet her price. Then after purchasing she would go out with the pleased expression of a cat that has swallowed a canary and report to Jimmie that she should do all the shopping. She left this world some 50 years ago and no doubt when arriving at the pearly gates used her persuasive powers to get favorable terms from St. Peter.

Who remembers J. N. Free?

He was a crank who paraded all over Ohio, seeking notoriety. Along in the period we are reviewing, we boarded a train at Bellefontaine enroute to Columbus. A rather seedy gentleman with graying whiskers took a seat opposite us. When the conductor came through and said, "Ticket, please."

He said, "My name is Free—the immortal J. N. I am here to lift the veil and relieve the pressure. I pay no fares."

And he didn't. The conductor threatened to put him off at Urbana but he stayed on 'til Springfield.

He was in DeGraff at least once, going to the printing office and telling them he had tried to get a hall to speak in—his subject "Lift the Veil." And so it became an expression in those times when you wanted to question a person's sanity he or she should "Lift the Veil." J. N. Free was brought into this unappreci-

ative world some 50 years too soon. Were he here today he would no doubt have a desk in Washington and be surrounded by a myriad of admiring friends.

The deposed cabinet officer is now free to go out and "Lift the Veil and relieve the pressure."

To my mind, no man in the period of the 70's and 80's had as much influence in the community of DeGraff as Dan S. Spellman. He was an auctioneer and knew everybody. He was mayor of the town about all that period and with Jim Longfellow as marshal, woe betide the offender. He was owner and publisher of the DeGraff Buckeye up to his death in 1894, and in the conduct of that paper he was outspoken, independent and absolutely fearless. He was a leader in politics and civic affairs. He established the first milk route in DeGraff—going from house to house, ringing a bell for customers to come to his buggy where milk was transferred from a vessel with a quart dipper. Previously everyone who had to buy milk took their bucket and went to the source.

One of the most interesting and attractive characters of this period was a harness maker, Jacob Lipp. He had a shop in the rear room over the bank. It was a great loafing place, especially for boys. Jake could work away at his bench and spin a yarn at the same time. He was full of humor and quick at repartee.

In the room adjoining was John Boyd, our first colored barber. John had a colored man working for him whom we all knew only as "Old Sal." He couldn't read or write and we were constantly playing jokes on him, by sending him on fool errands. He had a voice like "Rochester," and he would get a lot of fun out of it, same as we did, when he would tell what he or she said when they read the note he had brought to them.

Jake Lipp was a great trader, and among his trades he acquired a horse and wagon. In the summer months of that period, Main street became very dusty and the business men used to organize bucket brigades every morning to lay the dust. So Jake conceived the idea of a sprinkling outfit to accomplish the purpose, and he made a box for his wagon, and attached a perforated tin outfit, and fitted up a pump at the race bridge on South Main.

Now he was ready for bids among us boys, to pump and run the wagon. He emphasized that the pay would be the same, wet or dry, and that it might rain for a week. It would require two boys to do the pumping. And so it was that Nute Shoemaker and I got the job. The responsibility was mine, for I had agreed to furnish the stable and care for the horse. The horse's name was "Noah," and he was an antique—so sway-backed it was like going over a roller-coaster to curry him. The agreed-upon price was \$8.00 for me as principal and \$7.00 for Nute per month. The time was June 1875, and this was my first earned money—\$8.00 to spend as I pleased, and soda water only five cents a glass. Yes, Jake Lipp was a good trader.

During wheat harvest, nearly every boy in town went out and helped the farmers. They had reaping machines at that period that cut the wheat and left it in rows to be raked up and bound. If you could follow the machine and make your station, you could earn \$1.00 per day. If you were not able to make your station, you must carry sheaves to be stacked up and your pay was 75 cents a day. And the limit of our accomplishment was as a carrier of sheaves.

Along about 1880, Sam Koogler, living on a farm south of town, bought a McCormick wire self-binder and it was advertised that a demonstration of the machine would be made on a certain day and a large crowd went out to see how such a thing could be done. And so we have the beginning of the machine age.

The 20-Year Period—1890 to 1910

The Electric Age

THE period of the 90's brings the "push button", the electric age, into use. It is a period of great combination of capital and mass production.

A period when American inventive genius has brought within reach of all the labor saving devices, and other wants heretofore denied the masses. They are going to live better but it will cost more. No longer will a salary of \$100.00 a month support a family.

The years 1894 and 1895 will be remembered by us as the worst years in our long business history. Farm prices were down to a low record. Our shelves were filled with English cashmeres, French serges, German hosiery, and many of our mills were closed and the big cities were serving free soup to unemployed.

President Cleveland had to get out a bond issue to pay balance of trade against us, because of our imports and the bond interest which British investors had in our railroads and financial institutions. These conditions come to our mind when we read today, October 1949, that England is in distress because they can't get dollars to pay her exchange, even her own dominions want dollars. In 1902, we visited all the Mediterranean ports. French money was worth par at Algiers but no where else except in France. Greek money was good in Athens only. Turkish money good only in Constantinople, but the English pound was good for \$4.84 every where. Now the English pound is down to \$4.03 and our Secretary of Treasury, Snyder, says it ought to be down to \$3.00. What is going to be done, nobody seems to know. We have already sunk some 11 billions on England and it's just like pouring money in a rat hole. We can't keep it up and we can't let go. Trouble is, England sticks to old obsolete machinery and can't compete, and her labor has hospitalization and other perquisites and has no incentive to work. They don't have in London the great mass of middle class people we have in America, but jump from box seats to bleacher seats.

For instance, we visited Epsom Race track with a friend, who steered us away from the 10 to 20 shilling reserved seats and into the free oval arena of the race course. An estimated crowd of 1500 were in the grand stand seats, including

King Edward VII, and an estimated crowd of 50,000 in the open field. We have no interest in the races, we just went to see the British people, so we wander around until we are opposite the grand stand where King Edward and his party are. We saw them come down to the track to have a close view of the horses, but what amazes us is the poverty appearance of that vast crowd in the arena. So many poorly dressed, and so many boys and men are lean and hungry looking, and this was an era of British prosperity.

A very well written account of the municipal light plant by Fern Burdette is here inserted.

Story of Municipal Electric Light Plant

Soon after the series of articles on DeGraff's history got under way, many requests were made for the stories behind the beginning of DeGraff's municipal affairs, from the man who drove the sprinkler to the preachers, mayors, fire chiefs. From the fires, band concerts, skating rink, Fourth of July celebrations, to the drownings of Flossie Hudson, Rev. W. H. Leatherman, Earl Needham and Dr. L. C. Craig. Each person thrives on some particular incident that occurred in their time and when a group congregates time is the element which is most confusing because it has passed so quickly. After diligent research, we have shaped up the history of DeGraff's old electric light plant. Authority for this has come from many sources—it is impossible to give credit to anyone. We hope what it lacks in detail will be of trifling importance.

July 13, 1893, DeGraff gave up its old coal oil lamps and gasoline street lights when the electric current was turned on. The village Council at that time had more responsibility thrown upon it than any in the history of DeGraff. It was the members of this Council who carried out the wishes of the majority of the citizens and established one of the best electric light plants in the State and at a cost within reason. During the entire year the members worked together in harmony for the best interests of the town. It was true, there were differences of opinion at times, and they did not at all times vote in unison, but when a question was settled there was no back-biting, sulking or a waiting-to-get-even sentiment, but the vanquished worked with his co-laborer to carry out the decisions reached. The DeGraff Journal says in its April 13, 1894 edition, "To Mayor A. B. Huston, Councilmen W. H. Valentine, M. E. Burdett, H. P. Runyon, Jacob Hershey, Wm. Rea and J. W. Weigman and Clerk B. F. Hudson is due the thanks of our people."

Approximately a year after the plant had been in operation the Bellefontaine Examiner made this statement: "We admit that town ownership is the cheapest way to have electric light, because the town ownership advocates never add the interest on the money invested in the plant or the wear of machinery when figuring up the cost of the light."

In rebuttal the DeGraff Journal says: "There, we called the Examiner man down a week ago, on his arguments against ownership and gave him the figures he called for. He is down, but we will have to turn him over and sit on him once more to be sure of it. In the Journal of January 12, 1894, we gave the total cost of the plant as \$13,667.00. The revenue for the time computed was \$2814.13, which included the 3½ mills levy. The running expenses amounted to \$2110, which left a balance in favor of the plant of \$704.13. We obtained our figures from Corporation Clerk B. F. Hudson, who has made a careful computation for

the time mentioned and we think they are sufficiently plain to be easily understood and clearly show that DeGraff has no cause to be very fatigued with town ownership."

March 16, 1814

To Whom It May Concern:

DeGraff is a village of about 1200 inhabitants and is considered by those who have visited it to be the best lighted village of its size in the state. The system in use is the Standard Arc and the National Incandescent, both sold by the Commercial Electric Co., of Detroit, which company also did the construction work. The plant has been in operation since the 13th of July last and has from the time it started, given the best satisfaction. The plant is certainly a model one, both as to machinery and outside construction. The council found it a pleasure to deal with this company and takes pleasure in recommending it to the public.

Resolved by the Council of the Incorporate Village of DeGraff, Ohio that the above is the sense and expresses the sentiment of said Council.

Each member of the Council had their homes wired free of charge. The old iron lamp posts were sold to the village of Huntsville for \$50.

The first engineer at the electric light plant was C. E. Cozadd whose contract expired March 1, 1894. An offer was made by Mr. Cozadd and Fred Rea to take charge of and run the plant and furnish fuel, carbons, etc., at \$3800. Finally a contract was made with Fred Rea as head man and F. R. Diltz for second place at \$40 per month. During the years, other men were at the head of it, among them Charlie Brown and the one from whom we received our shocks was John Scott.

Finally, March 30, 1917, after 24 years of service, steam had been changed to oil and prices began to soar. When coal was used it took one-third more Jackson coal to run the plant than Hocking Valley coal. The unusual increase in the price of oil had made the running expenses of the plant exceed the receipts. The last tank of oil cost $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents per gallon as against 3 cents per gallon when the system was installed two years before. This made it imperative to either raise the rate or cut down the service.

The following notice was sent to light patrons:

Owing to the increased cost of oil and material entering into the manufacture of electricity, the Board of Trustees finds it necessary to increase the price of electric current. Therefore, on and after April 1, 1917, the price of electric current will be increased 1 cent per kilowatt, making a 10c rate with a minimum rate of \$1.00 per month also. From April 1, 1917, there will be no current from 9:30 A. M. until further notice. Users of current are requested to try and govern themselves accordingly.—J. C. Forry, H. A. Koogler and P. S. Hudson, Board of Trustees of Public Affairs.

The Council at this time was J. M. Wren, Wm. Ward, E. V. Notestine, Dr. Herbert Heintz, Ray Kumler and Wolfe. Mayor A. L. Brunson informed the Council in April 27, 1917, that a representative of the Standard Oil Co. had informed him that the credit of the village was about up to the limit, \$1932.31 now due. There seemed to be an undercurrent of sentiment developing little by little, that it would be better to dispose of the plant and allow a private concern to supply the current. May 11, 1917, an itemized statement was read showing that \$2330.58 would be necessary to pay indebtedness, a large per cent was for coal used in the old plant and an excessive amount of fuel oil when the first internal combustion engines were installed. The changes suggested by the Service Board involved an

expenditure of \$3,000 to put the plant on its feet. If this relief was not given, the only recourse was to shut down the plant and offer it for sale by the sealed bid plan. After the bids were opened a special election was called and the people decided to sell the plant.

The election came Tuesday, November 6th, 1917, which resulted in favor of disposal 145 to 78. The general election came also and at this time the following were elected: A. L. Brunson, Mayor; W. J. Gessner, clerk; H. N. Mitchell, treasurer; and T. H. Makemson, marshal. Councilmen: Ray Kumler, J. M. Wren, Wm. Ward, Dr. Herbert Heintz, Dr. Verl Garver, and Louis Startzman. Service Board, Henry Koogler, P. S. Hudson, and W. E. Mohr.

By June 7, 1918, the DeGraff plant which had been taken over by G. W. Harlan, agent for the Inter-County Electric Co., under the management of Mr. Vaughn, had almost completed the change-over and announced that in twenty days electricity would be coming from the new source, July 12, 1918. Councilman Ray Kumler stated that current from Sidney would be turned on sometime Saturday, July 13, 1918. Thus ended our municipal ownership of an electric light plant.— Fern Burdette, DeGraff Journal, June 2, 1949, George Himes, Editor.

Transportation Problems in Old DeGraff

Looking into a vast reservoir of old letters, an accumulation of over sixty years, I find the following letter:

The Ohio Southern Railway Co.
Office of the President
Springfield, Ohio
Feb. 13th, 1893

D. E. Strayer,
DeGraff, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

I have yours of Jan. 28th.

There has been such a slowness on the part of the DeGraff people in expressing their intentions in the matter of the proposed line via DeGraff that it has left the matter in a rather indefinite condition. This being the case we cannot give any further information as to our plans.

Yours truly,
Geo. W. Saul,
Pres't & Gen'l Mgr.

It was proposed to extend the Ohio Southern Railroad to Lima and we were on a direct line and the line had been surveyed thru Spring Hills, DeGraff, Maplewood, and Jackson Center. By and by, we learned the railroad officials were getting right of way contracts to St. Paris, which would throw us out of a direct line, hence this reply to our inquiry.

Immediately a committee, consisting of Harris, Pond and myself, went to Springfield to see president Saul, who told us that definitely they would go to St. Paris—that if we would raise \$10,000 as a contribution it would have an influence. But he said everything would depend on the engineer's report. We thought they would not choose a line through Quincy because of the difficulty of crossing the Miami River.

Jackson Center had no railroad and made sure of this road by various means. Getting in touch with a very influential Jackson Center fan, we were told that

the road would be built through Quincy because of the bridge—that the bridge people had reached an understanding with engineer. And so it was. And the high bridge, while under construction, was a resort of many sightseers. It would serve no purpose to say that the D. T. & I. was not a financial success—that it was an orphan, traded from one system to another. We wanted that road and would have raised \$10,000 to get it, so were much disappointed, because freight rates were discriminating and we figured we would never get any factories in DeGraff unless we had competitive rail rates.

Under the Teddy Roosevelt administration the Inter-State Commerce Commission was formed which ever since has fixed all fares and rates for railroads. The public in those days was very much against the railroads, partly because of their arbitrary rulings, partly because the wealth of the country owned the railroads—the Vanderbilts, the Morgans, Hills, Harrimans. So the I. C. C. became a law that neither party dared to change.

During the summer of 1901 the Hopkins brothers visited DeGraff and told us they proposed to build a traction line from Dayton to Kenton and that if DeGraff citizens would furnish a suitable location, they would locate the car barns and repair shop, which would employ some thirty men, in DeGraff. We lost no time in raising the money by public subscription and purchased the Detrick land between the railroad and the Thatcher sawmill, that portion fronting on Main Street to be donated to the traction company.

One of the Hopkins spent much of the summer in this community trying to sell stock in the enterprise, without much success. In February, 1902, we were in New York and called on the elder Hopkins on the 18th floor of one of the skyscrapers on Broadway. We found embossed on the door, John P. Hopkins, Broker. He told us the road would be built, that he was getting up a bond issue to finance it. In the harbor of New York was the Celtic, a 20,000-ton White Star liner, the largest ship at that time ever to have anchored in New York harbor. We sailed on it the 8th day of February for a four month cruise of the Orient. When we returned home the whole traction enterprise had collapsed. They could not sell the bonds. The shadow of the coming automobile was on the horizon.

Several years later we find in our records a meeting to dispose of the property acquired for this enterprise. A lot of figures showed after resale of the land and paying taxes and other expenses, there was \$2,351.98 to be returned to contributors, which was 68 percent of the amount contributed, and there was a motion by Miracle and Josh Doan that Henry Thatcher and Doc Galer be a committee to distribute same. And so perished this enterprise.

And now we come to the automobile that put all traction lines in the scrap pile. Sometime in the spring of 1904 there appeared the first automobile in DeGraff. It was the property of Will Williams and it was an Oldsmobile, steam driven, one seat and with just a hand lever to guide it. A crowd gathered and Williams proceeded to capitalize on his investment by charging a fee of 10 cents to take passengers around the block—Hayes to Boggs, Miami, and Main Streets. Meanwhile, over the route, the rearing horses had to be quieted. They did not like the noise of steam. Every day about the hour school was out, the automobile was on duty to haul the school children. By and by the novelty wore off, people began to realize that this wasn't going to be the only automobile, and the "around the block" ceased to pay.

Later Williams called on us and proposed to take us out in the farming community and when he would toot his horn the people would come out to see the automobile and then we could hand out advertising matter. And we replied "Not for love or money would you find us in your car among the farmers." For auto-

mobiles were becoming frequent—many from Dayton en-route to the lake were wearing a linen duster and a cap—women wrapping their heads with a wool veil. Cars are all open.

Farmers were justly resentful because at that time the pikes were built through the country and paid for in taxes assessed against the property, and now it was a risk to meet an automobile with a spirited team.

About 1905 the Lockharts, Ed and Emory, bought Dan Lehman's implement business and took the agency for Ford Automobiles. Our brother bought one in 1905—a Ford, Model T, two-seater, which was probably the third car owned in this part of the county. Dr. Elmer Curl owned the second car, bought in 1904, a White Steamer. In our rides in our brother's car we were very careful to pull to the side of the road, turn off the ignition, when meeting a horse-drawn vehicle. Gradually horses became accustomed to cars, but not until 1917 did we risk owning an automobile, and by then the World War was on, farm prices zoomed up and farmers were buying automobiles. Just when the auto business with the farmers was at the top, the Lockharts were confronted with a contract from the Fords—they must use a certain percentage of trucks. We agreed with them that trucks were for the city—farmers had horses and would never have any use for trucks. So they cancelled the Ford agency. No one had any idea then that horses would go out of style.

The first auto for hire was owned by Curt Derr. In 1908 he was hauling four of us (Doc Galer, Jake Myers, Chas. Weller and myself) to Bellefontaine to a director's meeting of the United Telephone Company. The round trip fare was \$1 each—and it required about 45 minutes to make the trip. Middle aged people can scarcely realize how bad our roads would become when the spring thaws developed. There was one place on the hill on route 47 about two miles west of Bellefontaine that deep ruts would develop in which you could bury a dog. The best route to Bellefontaine was by way of Gretna and Silver Lake when the rainy season was on. Gasoline tax has given us good roads. Automobiles are a big expense. It costs more to live, but we live better.

History of the Canning Factory

Being a permanent fixture ourselves, in DeGraff, it was always a matter of regret that every year our school would turn out twenty to thirty boys and girls who would have to leave DeGraff because of no work. We tried to interest factories with no success. We visited the Deisel-Wemmer Cigar Factory in Lima, offering free rent, and were asked how much help we could guarantee. We said at least 100; and they said that 300 would be the minimum needed. They started a factory soon afterwards in Bellefontaine but they closed up after a year or two because of the lack of labor. In 1906 we organized a company to make steel fence posts. The old wood fence posts were being replaced by wire and steel. Surely, there was a product we would have a market for at our door; but it wasn't easy. In our small way we could not compete with mass production and so, after a few years, we took our loss and closed up.

So, with that sort of a basic background, you can imagine how we welcomed a proposition that came to us unsolicited. In February, 1907, there came to us a Mr. Stancliff, a man of pleasing personality and appearance. He said that he represented a canners' organization of St. Louis, who built canning factories, furnished an experienced processor, and sold the finished products at four percent



DEGRAFF PACKING CO.

commission. He said that for \$30,000 they could build and equip a factory for canning corn and tomatoes and told us the cost and the selling prices, which insured a good profit. Well, we just took it all in, hook, line and sinker, so when he produced a contract enumerating just what we would get for \$30,000, we lost no time in signing; so many shares of \$100 each for ourself, so many for the store, and we went with him to all the business houses in DeGraff, of whom many took stock. After securing about fifty percent in town, and realizing that the farmers must plant the corn and tomatoes, we decided that the farmers should be stockholders. So Stancliff spent several weeks visiting the farmers, who, at first, were not interested, but eventually whole neighborhoods began taking one share each. When it became a certainty that 300 shares would be subscribed, we began to ask ourselves, "Do we know what we are getting?" And it was decided that we should take the contract to Lima, where our brother-in-law, Bigley could be consulted. He was an enthusiastic stock holder and was head of a wholesale grocery and knew many canners. He told us that we fortunately have with us today Mr. Kizer, of Kizer, Hoe, & Co., who have three canning factories. On showing the contract to

Kizer, he pronounced it at one glance as one of those promotional schemes to sell obsolete machinery. What a blow that assertion was to our enterprise. After much discussion, Kizer suggested that if we still wanted to go ahead and have a factory, for us to get some experienced man who understood machinery and processing. He suggested Roy Rowen, who ran the Stoops Factory at Van Wert, and so to Van Wert we went. Rowen's verdict as to the contract was the same as Kizer's. He would resign and come to DeGraff for \$2,000 and a three-year contract.

Arriving home, we found that Stancliff had completed selling 300 shares of stock. After several days of arbitration, Stancliff accepted his expenses and turned over the stock signatures. The factory was built, but it cost several thousand dollars in excess of the \$30,000 stock issue and at the end of three years, Rowen was dismissed. The earnings of the factory did not warrant keeping a \$2,000 manager.

For several years, the processing was carried on; first by Alonzo Tully, then by Mat Koogler. The management was taken care of by the president of the company.

Then it was that Willis Crites, of Sabina, was induced to buy the Strayer Company stock at a big sacrifice in price. He agreed to manage the company on the basis of one-third of the profit. He brought with him, Roy Rogers, of Sabina, who was a very competent machinist. They built an additional wareroom,



EARNEST C. THATCHER

changed machinery, to get better production, and put the factory on a paying basis. One of the conditions of Crites' taking over the management was that we would continue as director and assistant manager, or release our clerk, Earnest Thatcher, part time to serve as Secretary. We chose the latter, but when the

war came on, it became necessary for Thatcher to give full time to the factory, so we very reluctantly released him, for he was our most dependable clerk. The depression of 1921 found the factory deeply in debt for borrowed money. The bottom had fallen out of prices and our warerooms were full of unsalable merchandise. Then it was that Crites involved the company in an outside venture that proved to be a complete bust.

So, in 1925, after much correspondence, the Lima bank, who held the notes to the extent of \$40,000, signed by the directors of the Canning Co., came to DeGraff prepared to collect from the directors. A meeting had been arranged to be held at the Citizens' Bank for directors and stockholders, with the Lima Bank officials. They proposed that the directors should pay their notes and save themselves by taking over the factory, other stockholders being frozen out. Then Crites rose to the occasion. He said that he was the largest stockholder (during the war he made as high as \$11,000 a year, but took it nearly all in stock) and was perfectly willing to turn in his stock, but that it was a matter of honor with him to protect those people to whom he had sold stock. He would resign, turn in his stock, and asked that they give Thatcher a chance to pay off the notes. After much discussion, his proposition was accepted. In the following years, we knew much of the administration of the affairs of the Canning Company, having helped him tide over several financial troubles. He did a fine job and was ably assisted by Roy Rogers and later by Bob Miller, so that when he unexpectedly passed away in April, 1945, the Company was out of the red and was paying dividends. Thatcher came to our store as delivery clerk when only 15 years old and was in our employ for 20 years and we take some credit for his development. He left a fine record as a business executive and was cut down right at the height of his usefulness. We take pleasure in including his picture herewith. This community was fortunate in having the factory pass into possession of the Swonger interests, of whom Wm. Swonger and Jess are the head. They are the products of DeGraff Schools, who went out into the world from scratch, and have accumulated a string of canning factories.

The Gas Wells of 1896

In 1896 there came to town an oil driller from the Lima district, a James Yocum, who had a hunch that we would find oil here and who was willing to back that faith by putting up 25 per cent of the capital to start a company. Then it was that the following parties were drawn into the enterprise with him: W. E. Harris, S. E. Loffer, Dr. Galer, Dr. E. E. Curl, Josh Doane, Mat Wolfe, Jake Strayer, and your humble servant. The first well was put down on the Stinchcomb sawmill lot where the sales barn is now. Trenton rock was struck at 1289 feet and was continued to 1362 feet. On being shot, gas came out in great force and we thought we had something. A contract was made with the town council in December, 1896, to furnish gas to run the electric light plant, the price to be \$1440 per year, the gas company to furnish coal to make up any deficiency in gas. All went well for a few months but the flow of gas got weaker and weaker, so that in eleven months, we spent \$1157 for coal.

Well No. 2 was drilled on the Will Henderson farm, near Stony Creek, west of town. Trenton rock was struck at 1285 feet and oil sand 18 feet in the rock; small amount of gas and oil, but not in paying quantity, and so was abandoned.

Well No. 3 was put down on the Canning Factory grounds just east of the office and here we had a duplicate of the Stinchcomb well—a good flow of gas in the beginning. The Gas Company continued its contract of furnishing power for the light plant for six years at which time the coal bill almost equalled the contract. So the contract was cancelled and one entered into with the Creamery on the basis of \$25 per month for just the gas. This contract continued from 1902 to 1910 when contract was cancelled and the wells abandoned.

In 1917 the buried pipes were sold to Lima parties for \$100 and the company books closed and this ended the quest for gas in this immediate territory. There are small pockets of gas that are soon exhausted. We may be near a larger field of gas. Let us hope that Barthauer may strike it.

In 1893 came the agitation to have electric lights in DeGraff. We were lighting the town with coal oil street lamps. Every evening about 6 o'clock would see Marshal Jim Longfellow mounted on his black pony, torch in hand, riding over town lighting the lamps. There was much debate pro and con as to the desirability of bonding the town to build an electric light plant. The election was held to issue bonds for \$12,000 and build an electric light plant and carried.

In due time the plant was built and Aug. 8, 1893, was to witness the opening night. It was the only electric light plant in the county or nearby territory and an immense crowd, estimated at 5,000, came to the opening night.

We who looked after the social features of the town put on a dance and served refreshments at the "U and I" club rooms over the Hough meat market—and there were many favorable comments on the hospitality of DeGraff.

All went well with the lighting system for the first five years—then it was that every now and then we would have no light—and the opponents of the bond issue had their inning—that we didn't know enough about electric machinery to put "Tom, Dick and Harry" in to run it.

When the period of the bond issue—ten years—arrived, no provision had been made to retire the bonds so it was necessary for the council to put on a stiff tax to take care of the bonds, which our local bank took up and carried until paid off. And thus was the stage set to sell out to the Sidney company. Whether or not it was a wise move is a moot question when we consider what we might do with the plant today—at least we can say we do have good service.

The Creamery

The Creamery Company was formed in 1891 as a stock Company—its directors were Luther Pool, Sol. Loffer, John Brown, Isaac Miller, W. E. Harris, and your historian. Although most of the stock was subscribed by farmers, they did not patronize their factory—not to a great extent—and for many years no dividends were paid. Some twenty years elapsed when farmers were getting automobiles and the company could send trucks for the milk; then it became quite an asset for DeGraff.

In time, William Henderson moved to Piqua and Andrew Brunson became the manager. He was the grandfather of the present junior member of the DeGraff Creamery firm, Mr. Jason A. Brunson. The corporation made shipments to Cleveland, Indianapolis, Columbus, and elsewhere. In 1918, with the present senior partner, Mr. J. L. Brunson, in the Army, the plant was leased to the then John Wilde Evaporated Milk Co., consolidated later with Nestle's Milk Products, Inc. During the first six months of 1918, the milk was trucked to Bellefontaine.



DEGRAFF CREAMERY
J. A. Brunson, Jason Brunson and employees.

The community has never quite forgotten the effects of the virtual loss of such an industry during the period when production, under chain dairy operation, was moved to Bellefontaine. Nor has the area ever ceased showing its gratitude for the reestablishment of the business in DeGraff as an independent, local enterprise. Shortly after his return from the army Mr. J. L. Brunson, and Mr. E. V. Lippincott leased the plant in August, 1921, to make butter. In 1922 Mr. Lippincott's interest was purchased by Mr. J. L. Brunson, who continued operations under the name of the Peoples Creamery. In 1923 a half interest was purchased by Mr. William Forsythe, and the plant added ice production to its activities.

The young firm was just getting into its stride in ice cream production when the entire plant burned to the ground on September 18, 1927. With little of either insurance or capital, a new start was nevertheless accomplished successfully. Arrangements were made in Bellefontaine to continue butter production there, until a new building could be erected at the DeGraff site, where a temporary building had to suffice meanwhile. The new partners, who had previously leased the property for five years, with option to buy, had made and saved enough between 1923 and 1927 to finance the new building. It was constructed well and in record time. The creamery was opened June 1, 1928, and began butter and ice cream production immediately.

Mr. Andrew L. Brunson's egg and poultry business was acquired when he became Postmaster of DeGraff. After the fire, the milk bottling was handled by

Mr. Roy Smith, the present Postmaster, until purchased by the Creamery in 1940. Most of the equipment thereupon moved in from the Smith plant has since been replaced by new, more modern installations, following a program of constant plant improvement and expansion. The firm has been known as the DeGraff Creamery since 1928.

In 1938, Mr. Forsythe's interest was acquired by Mr. Andrew L. Brunson, who died at an advanced age that same year. Mr. J. L. Brunson then contracted with his father's estate for the purchase of its half interest, which was later bought by his son, Mr. Jason A. Brunson, on returning from Army service in Japan in 1946. Under the Brunson management the vitality and essential nature of the business enabled it to weather two depressions and World War II successfully; to continue progress through the post-war years, free of all financial encumbrances, geared and running smoothly for even more substantial and profitable operations foreseen for future years. The creamery has been strikingly free of labor troubles, with regional access to ample personnel whose loyalty and liking for the work has been as well demonstrated as their faculty for getting a high level of production at moderate cost, with good equipment and agreeable working conditions. Aptitudes of the management have tended toward safe, financial conservatism, close attention of costs, cleanliness, and efficiency. Quality of products and fair buying and selling pricing policies have influenced volume and stability of sales, and contributed to protecting the regional dairy industry from any recurrence of any chain dairy threats to the independence of this essential local business.

The Telephone

The advent of a telephone company in DeGraff was to be of such financial benefit to DeGraff citizens that it deserves a place in the history.

There were individual telephones in DeGraff in the late 80's. We had a line from our house to the store. The Bell Telephone Company had run a line through DeGraff from Bellefontaine to Sidney with a local toll office in the Valentine Hotel. On the council records of April 12, 1898, we find the following: "A Franchise was this day granted the Inland Telephone Company to build a telephone exchange in DeGraff.

A. B. Huston, Mayor
Frank Kloepper, Clerk"

The Inland Telephone Company proved to be William and Ed Fledderjohn of New Knoxville, who without experience and very little cash, but with vision and supreme courage were building a line from Knoxville to Botkins to Jackson Center to DeGraff and on to St. Paris. They put in a switchboard in the rear of the Weidinger meat market at DeGraff. Ed became the manager here and during a period of three years had taken on several hundred subscribers and had built lines to Sidney and half way to Bellefontaine. Meanwhile other points in Logan County had organized telephone companies, and so in January 1902 a union of all of them was effected and it became known as The United Telephone Company. The Fledderjohns, having long toll lines, got a handsome price for their holdings but had to take it all in stock in the new company. Soon after selling his stock, Fledderjohn left DeGraff and Mrs. Stella Craig became chief operator. In the early years of the Telephone Company the management thought they were making money at only \$1.00 per month, and so they were, so long as

they could hire operators (girls) at \$5.00 per week and took no account of depreciation and sleet storms. Nor was there any suspicion that at a later date, welfare rules would require, that no operator, should work over eight hours, which rule requires three operators instead of two.

In the years following the sale of the Inland Telephone to the United Telephone Company, the Fledderjohn boys embarked in an enterprise—a building of a traction line from Portland to Fort Wayne and Eddie made periodic trips back to DeGraff to sell telephone stock to carry on the traction enterprise. So by 1910 DeGraff people had so much stock, that four of the ten directors of the United Telephone Company were from DeGraff.

Meanwhile World War I so increased the price of all telephone equipment, that some exchanges were losing money, so we sought to raise the rates, the public protested and the Utility Commission refused our application, but they granted us a rehearing, subject to a new appraisalment.

Meanwhile we expanded, buying Marysville, Milford Center, Byhalia, Magnetic Springs, and York. An appraisalment of all our property showed a net value of over \$1,100,000, so we were given permission to capitalize on the increase the \$300,000 value of Common Stock was increased to \$1,000,000 and the increase was pro-rated to all our stockholders and now a new rate was granted on all of our original property. 1926 was the year of increased capitalization. It was a "bull market" year, a year of stock market activities and stock consolidations. A group of New York and Boston bankers bought the Lima Telephone Company at about twice its stock issue. Through the year 1928 we had many offers for our company, ranging from \$85.00 to \$125.00 per share of common stock, which we turned down, but in December, 1928, a representative of the Lima group offered \$150.00, which was about to be accepted when a Studebaker group wanted us to give them a price. When told that \$175.00 would make a contract, they asked for time to get their auditor here from Chicago. At the end of twenty-four hours they asked for more time, which we did not grant, but sent word to Lima that their opportunity to buy at \$175.00 was open. They accepted, put up \$100,000 forfeit, and were to complete payment April 1, 1929.

Meanwhile in early 1929 the speculative craze had reached its limit. There was a stock market crash. The Federal reserve lightened up on credits and the New York bankers could get no money to complete their deal, and so it was that \$100,000 was distributed among our stockholders. (\$10.00 per share).

During the following ten years, with high taxes, with increased costs and diminishing profits and threats of labor trouble, when an offer of \$85.00 per share was made, a majority of the stockholders voted to accept.

The twenty-four years we served as President of the United Telephone Company are filled with memories we cherish. They were a fine group of directors.

The Spanish-American War

I have been asked by the power-that-be, to write up a history of the Spanish-American War. This is today the forgotten war in which the United States was once involved; the one that is known in a general way as having only lasted something like ninety days. That, however, is an understatement. The truth is that the Spanish-American War and what comes out of it lasted over four years. It started on the 25th of April, 1898, and the trouble with the Phillipinos and the Boxer uprising caused it to continue until the fall of 1902.

As far as I know, there were but two DeGraff boys that went to the Phillipine Islands, myself, and Oscar Snyder. At the outbreak of the war I was located in Evanston, Wyoming, in the newspaper game and Co. H. 1st Wyoming National Guard was located at Evanston. I was taken to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where I enlisted in the National Guards, I was examined by regular army officers, passed the examination, and was mustered into the United States service. We were issued our tents and blankets, (and I still have mine) and the next day we were issued our uniforms, guns, belts, canteen, and haversacks. We took up drilling, which lasted but a short time. We were then ordered to go to San Francisco, and naturally being in U. S. Service we did just what we were told. We were in Frisco until June 27th, 1898, when we left for Manila, I was on the steamship "Ohio", an old cattle boat, so I felt at home.

Snyder was on the Indiana; however, I did not know this until after we had left Honolulu. There were those who were seriously ill, their names and places of residence were sent to all the vessels and there were five ships in the fleet. It was then that I learned that Oscar Snyder of DeGraff, Ohio was aboard the Indiana, seriously ill with typhoid fever. However, I never saw him until after we had returned to DeGraff in October, 1899, as his ship was not located, on Luzon, where I landed. We went in Manila Bay July 30th, 1898, just about sundown, and then on the morning of July 31st we went ashore in Camp Dewey. Then, there in the afternoon we were in the front line, and my first experience of having someone shouting at us with only one purpose in mind, that was to kill, and believe it or not, it was no pleasant experience. We were mustered into service May 9th at Cheyenne, Wyoming, and shooting at the Spaniards on July 31st, about 13,000 miles away. They don't do anything like that today.

We fought them until August 13th, 1898, and had driven them back until we had them all corralled within the city wall. When the Spanish General decided that he had had enough, he ran the white flag up, and ordered his men to stop firing because the whole United States was coming. Later, I had Spaniards ask me if there were any more people in the United States, as we had about 10,000 men there, Hospital Corp and all.

From August 13th, 1898, until the evening of February 4th, 1899, we took things rather easy, but on that night, the Filipinos started to drive us in Manila Bay. Well, Manila Bay was alright to swim in, but, as a permanent residence, none of the boys liked the idea so we proceeded to impress them that we did not like the idea at all. We advanced to chase them away from Manila, and by 2 p. m., the next day, we had driven them back until we had the water works and water line into the city of Manila, and we put in the rest of the day burying the dead, and then continued the job of running them around over Luzon until we were relieved from duty by the arrival of troops from the U. S. to take our places, as our enlistment had long since expired. Just to show you what a small world this is, or was over there; one day while waiting for a ship to take us home, I had been down in the city and on my way back to the barracks, I stopped at a refreshment stand and was having a dish of ice cream, when a buddy of C. Co. of my regiment stopped at my table and said to me, "Thatcher, what are you going to do when you get your discharge in Frisco?" "Well," I said, "I'm going to beat it across to the Oakland depot just as quickly as I can and get a train for Ohio." He then asked me what part of Ohio I was from, and I told him he would not know anything about it if I told him, but I said, "A little town in the western part of the state by the name of DeGraff." "Nope," he said, "I don't know anything about it, I was raised in Quincy."

J. W. THATCHER

One bright morning in March 1898, we drove to Bellefontaine, to see our soldiers embark for the Spanish-American War. The following were from DeGraff: Homer Doane—Charlie Doane—Harry Taylor—Curtis Bishop—Forrest Martin—Moore Spellman—Cliff Rairdon, and others. Fortunately, all were spared to return.

The only casualty in this region was Ollie Harter of Quincy, who was killed in the Philippines.

From his personal effects John Rexer has dug up an old Souvenir Program of the reception held for the soldiers of the Spanish-American War, held in DeGraff on February 22, 1899.

It was printed by the Buckeye Publishing Company, publishers of the DeGraff Buckeye. The Welcome Ode was written by the late Perry Thatcher, who graduated from DeGraff High School in 1898. The roll of honor contained the following names: C. L. Bishop, H. D. Doan, Charles T. Doan, Forrest Martin, Ralph Matthews, Elmer Valentine, B. F. Hess, H. C. Richardson, Clifford H. Rairdon, Moore Spellman, Harry Taylor, Albert Law, Rea Berger, Fred L. Thatcher, Will McCalley, Thos. Mathison, Harry Neer, Charles McInturf, J. W. Thatcher, Jr., and Oscar Snyder.

John L. Summers was the Master of Ceremonies and the DeGraff Cornet Band furnished the music. Prof. Hutchison led the singing of America, prayer was offered by Rev. Shultz, Address of Welcome by Mayor Huston, solo by Miss Erma Kumler, Response to Welcome by C. Rea Berger, duet by Mrs. J. Gessner and Mrs. J. H. Dachenbach, benediction by Rev. Wiles. The menu consisted of chicken, cold meats, pickles, salad, slaw, cake, fruit, jellies, bread and butter and coffee.

1910—1920

THE 1910 to 1920 decade was fraught with dire consequences—floods, fires, election upsets, war, and prohibition.

The primary of the Republican party brought on a splitup in the party. A majority in DeGraff sided with Teddy and, in the election of 1912, voted the "Bull Moose" ticket, which resulted in the election of Wilson, because of the split in the Republican party.

Now, we come to the 1916 election with our entrance into World War I hanging in the balance. We attended that Convention in the capacity of Assistant-Sergeant-at-Arms, meeting Kin Hubbard in the Congress Hotel, he undertook, to tell us the political situation as he viewed it. Knowing Kin in Bellefontaine, back in our bachelor days, and aware of his democratic ancestors, we wanted to know what he was doing at a Republican Convention, and he said he was representing the Indianapolis News.

After taking us around to the various headquarters, we asked him what news we could send back to the Bellefontaine Examiner and he said, "If you can't nominate Hughes, you will have to take Roosevelt; powerful financial interests are back of him." Then, with a merry twinkle peculiar to Kin, he said, "For the life of me, I can't see why all this fuss; nobody will beat Wilson. At our newsmen's banquet last night, Sam Blythe, the dean of newsmen, said Wilson will be elected on the slogan," "He kept us out of war." And so it was—

Wilson could not keep us out of war, nor could any other President. We are tied up with Mother England, she must be rescued in war or financially. And so, in April, 1917, we are in the war, and a draft board is set up in Washington. It has been impossible to get a complete list of boys from DeGraff and community who went into the service because quite a few joined up from the city where they were engaged in work, and the records at Bellefontaine don't have their names. So rather, than omit some, it is deemed best to omit all.

Quit a number saw service in the battlefields of France, and with only two fatalities, Lyman Doan, who died in camp when the flu epidemic spread over the country in the winter of 1917, and Harry G. Wright, who died at Camp Sherman.

The war stopped all shipments from Europe and prices went up. Table damask that has sold at retail for \$1 per yard was up to \$2.50 and the sale of yard goods of linen never came back in our store. Finished fabric of cotton and rayon took their place. We had plenty of hosiery mills but they had been getting their dyes from Germany, 95% of women's hose were in black and our home-made black dyes rubbed off. In time, we made our own dyes satisfactory.

The first call for war contributions was for Red Cross. No organized canvas was made, but, several contributions of \$50 and \$100 were made. Shortly after this Red Cross call, a meeting of the Bellefontaine Chamber of Commerce was addressed by a Mr. Bancroft of Springfield. They had successfully raised a large sum of money for war purposes. He said, "Put all your contributions in one basket; call it a War Chest, advertise extensively before starting a canvas, send a committee up to the great hospital of several thousand wounded soldiers at Toronto to get inspiration." So, it was, that nine of us went to Toronto. We were met by a Committee and, after a dinner at Queen's Hotel, were taken out to this hospital. This great hospital had wounded soldiers of every description. Nurses were teaching the blind to read; men on crutches or wheelchairs; some armless, but the most pitiful were the shell shocked. The stories they told of German atrocities were highly magnified, especially one who told of seeing German soldiers drag a woman

and toss her baby up in the air and catch it on their bayonets. We asked Major S what was the worst scene in his experience. He said that it was when the Germans first used gas at the battle of Ypres. He said, "I was on observation in a tree close to the German lines when a division of Sengalese soldiers made a charge on the German line. Torn by shot and shell, those black soldiers closed ranks and came on with fixed bayonets, but when near the German breast works, the gas was turned on. I never saw such a sight—men fell in every direction. They shrieked, they gasped. The charge was broken."

The expense of the Toronto trip and all advertising was paid out of an expense fund so that it would in no way interfere with the campaign we were putting on. We contributed \$200 in DeGraff, from three institutions for this fund. The meeting was held in the Methodist Church on Sunday night, with a packed house. It was explained that the money was for Red Cross and other army purposes, and also for relief to any of our soldiers' families, and that the War Chest Committee expected every man to give, and that the slogan was "One day's wages out of 31 or 4% of income." One day's wages meant \$4. The next morning the following solicitors set forth—Ed Lockhart, Don Cretcher, Frank Garver, and Thurman Myers for the town, and Dr. Shawan and Chas. Brown for south of town. In two days they reported a total of \$12,136, and that not one person had refused to contribute. In this amount, we would credit the school with \$639.65.

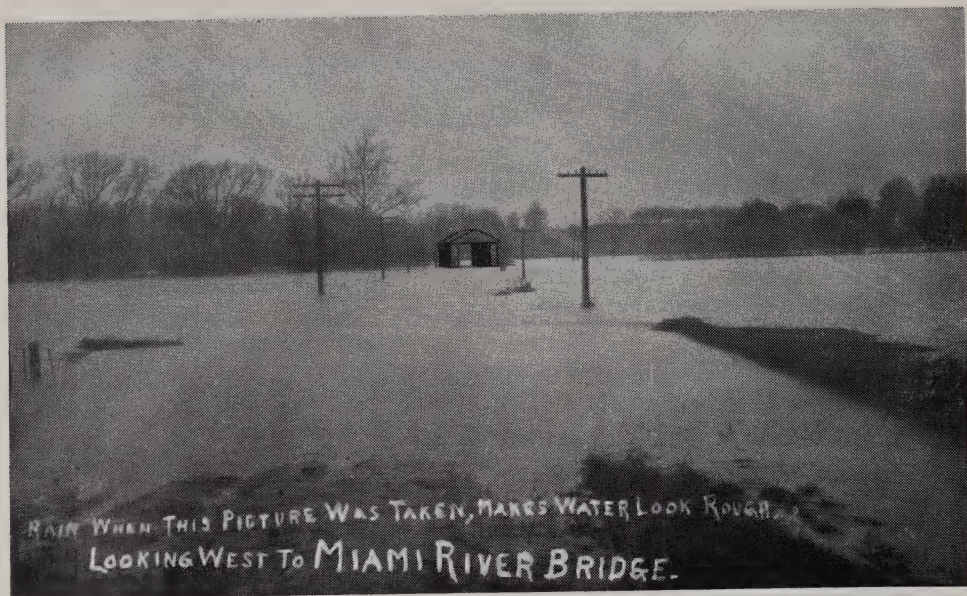
The close of the war found women employed in nearly every line of labor; girls were serving as accountants, as stenographers, as machine operators, as elevator operators, and even as street car conductors. Women have grown independent and want to take their place in the world and are demanding the right to vote. They are going to get it—and soon.

Let's take a look at the dress of 1919, that the girl of fashion wears. Its length is six inches from the floor, her shoes are high laced or low shoes with spats, her stockings are black or cordovan, and if she rides in an automobile she will wear a veil for practically all cars are open. Her bathing suit will consist of an overskirt over a tight fitting knitted undergarment with long black stockings. She may paint and smoke cigarettes. If so, her place is in the bar-room, or so the majority of the public at that time would say. And now, on July 1, we are to have prohibition in America.

DeGraff has always voted dry and back in the 80's the saloons were voted out. During our term in the town council, 1903 to 1908, no less than three petitions were presented to the Council asking for an election to have saloons in DeGraff. We looked the petitions over and found enough names of people opposed to saloons, but willing to sign to save an argument, to make the petition invalid when their names were removed.

In the national election of 1918 the vote was for prohibition 156 to 86. In Quincy it was 53 for, and 42 against. The majority in the county for prohibition was 1435. As to the consequences, who could predict that prohibition would make millionaires of Al Capones and establish "speak easies" in all the large cities, with lawless characters, mostly foreign, in control. That is what happened.

In 1919 Main, Miami, and Hayes Streets were paved with cement. No more bucket brigades every morning to keep down the dust in the business district. Every property owned signed a petition to place the tax on abutting property. Upkeep on Main and Miami Streets, being highways 508 and 69, are now maintained by the state.



FLOOD

The Great Flood of March 1913

We copy the "Journal" account of this event. Together with its notes it gives you a very vivid account of this disaster. We were marooned in Cincinnati, unable to get out, the C. H. & D. depot being under six feet of water. Finally after six days isolation, going by street car to Carthage, the Big Four was making up a train to go to Lebanon, to Xenia, and to Springfield, and home. Several on this train were returning tourists from Florida, marooned in Cincinnati all week. It was a jolly good-natured crowd.

"The worst flood in the history of the northern half of Ohio, occurred this week, and DeGraff with many other towns along the Great Miami River, has been isolated from the outside world since Tuesday, and almost surrounded by water from the overflowed river, Bokengehelas and Stony Creeks.

Rain began to fall Sunday morning, March 23, and was continuous until Thursday. The river and creeks left their banks late Sunday night. Water began backing up in the lowlands, and from 1 to 5 a.m., Tuesday, it raised six feet, flowing over the Big Four Railway tracks half a mile west of DeGraff.

By Wednesday morning the waters had covered all the lowland south, west, northwest, and northeast of DeGraff, but at no time was there apparent danger of the water coming into the main streets, though water did run over west Miami Street, backing into the west side of Lewis Slusser and Joseph Yohn's property, and into the rear of B. W. Northcutt's lots. North of Miami Street the water backed up over S. E. Loffer's land, nearly to the rear portion of H. W. Koogler's property which fronts on north Main Street.

The archway of the cement bridge across Bokengehelas Creek was not large enough by half to carry away the immense volume of water, and for a time

Tuesday that part of south Main Street was covered with water. A large portion of the railroad fill west of the Kiblinger crossing, four miles east of town, was washed away, and workmen used seven big cars of coal and a quantity of gravel to put the track in passable condition.

The high water mark was reached Wednesday, and since the water receded, measurements taken in the covered bridge over the Miami River, west Miami Street, shows that the water was twenty-three inches deep over the floor, which indicates that at that point it was about twenty feet above low water mark.

Thursday morning, the flood had subsided sufficient to permit the beginning of work on the washout west of town. A number of car loads of coal were dumped and the tracks ballasted, so that passenger train No. 10, was permitted to leave Sidney that afternoon, where it had been since Monday. That was the first passenger train into DeGraff for three days. Freight train No. 92, eastbound, followed later in the evening. Then traffic was annulled again until a west bound train was made up at Bellefontaine to run on regular No. 19's time and passing DeGraff at about the noon hour (Friday).

Big Four agent, O. S. Vance and his operators have been busy all week and made every effort to get outside news for our people concerning friends in various parts of the state. The work train from Bellefontaine brought a car load of freight for the merchants here Thursday. It was a portion of the regular weekly shipments. At no time, has there been a scarcity of foodstuffs in DeGraff.

Out of 600 bushels of oats belonging to A. C. Tully, stored in the kroust tanks at the canning factory, 100 bushels were saved. The backwater from Bokengehelas was seven feet deep at the factory. Mr. Tully and a force of men spent Tuesday scattering the grain on the floors of the east warehouse.

The telephone operators. Here's to their faithfulness, patience and satisfaction their efforts bring to the anxious inquirer at such times as these.

The following former DeGraff people live in Piqua: W. M. Boyer and wife, J. C. Gessner and wife, J. C. Spellman and wife, Mrs. Nancy Spellman, Loren Pool and family. Misses Fern Wilson, Faye and Marie Archer and Sam Ellis and wife, Wes Young and wife, and there was much apprehension as to their safety.

William Taylor, Frank Inskeep, and Matt Moore, with their families, living on the west bank of the river north of DeGraff, had their spring moving day, Tuesday. Commencing in the cellar, fruit, potatoes, and incubators came first; stock was herded to the higher ground, and the occupants of the house left late Tuesday evening, fearing the water's tide.

Flood Notes

Cliff Carpenter, on the F. R. Diltz farm, stored his sheep in the hay mow of his barn. The entire farm is a veritable sea.

D. E. Strayer, T. C. Myers and Miss Grace Shoemaker are DeGraff folks in Cincinnati privileged to see the disastrous flood.

Grant Long and family, living a mile west of Logansville, along the banks of the river, were moved to the home of his brother, Marco Long.

Misses Lena Taylor, Ada Struble and Mary Hill were unable to get to their schools, and it was not likely there will be school in the flooded rural districts until next week.

Mrs. S. P. Pond is in Beaverdam with her daughter, Helen. She had intended to return early in the week, but washouts on all the railroad and traction lines prevented.

A. Maugans has several good views of the flood and the demand for post cards Tuesday was greater than the supply. But why worry, we can't send them yet awhile.

A telephone message from W. C. McCalla, of Sidney, to his daughter, stated that he, Mr. McCalla, was taken in a boat from their upstairs, Tuesday, to a place of safety."—S. P. Pond, DeGraff Journal, March 25, 1913.

\$100,000 FIRE SWEEPS OUT BUSINESS SECTION OF DEGRAFF

BOTH SIDES OF MAIN STREET LEVELED TO THE GROUND EARLY LAST FRIDAY MORNING. TWENTY-ONE BUSINESS ROOMS TOTALLY DESTROYED TOGETHER WITH THE FIGLEY LIVERY BARN AND ALL THE BUILDINGS ON THE REAR OF THE LOTS FROM THE RHODES HOTEL SOUTH TO THE RAILROAD, AND SOUTH FROM THE JOURNAL OFFICE TO THE MOHR & MERCER ELEVATOR. OTHER BUILDINGS CAUGHT FIRE, BUT WERE SAVED.

The Second Big Fire Within Six Weeks. The Last One Started Where the First Was Stopped. From the Very Beginning the Fire was of Greater Magnitude Than Could be Handled by the Home Fire Department. Not a Man or Firm Burned Out is Discouraged. Most of the Property Owners Are Preparing to Rebuild. The Merchants and Citizens Who Escaped Are Free With Financial Aid to the Fire Victims. There is a Grim Determination to Rise and cover the Ashes with a Better and Greater DeGraff. We Can Do It! We Will Do It!

The largest fire in the history of DeGraff occurred early Friday morning. At two o'clock the alarm was sounded, and the clanging of the bell and the shrieking of the whistle made a terrifying appeal.

Blaze was discovered by night-watchman James Taylor, who turned in the alarm and the origin of the fire seemed to be in Carpenter's Livery Barn in the alley between Main and Boggs Streets, the immediate stopping place of the fire on the night of June 13, just six weeks before. Mr. Taylor thinks the fire must have been started near the pump in the barn. The stable was locked and when men arrived and chopped their way into the barn, the flames leaped out, so suddenly, that they were unable to rescue the horses, five of which perished at once.

Immediately, the Fire Chief, S. P. Pond, summoned aid from Quincy, Bellefontaine and Sidney, for it was realized that the angry blaze was too much for the firemen. The greatest possible pressure was maintained at the engine and steady streams of water were directed on the fire by the nozzlemen, but the blaze swept rapidly north and reached the Rhodes Hotel, working on the intervening business rooms.

In forty-one minutes after the call for help reached Quincy, Chief Moore and his firemen were here with their gasoline engine and too much cannot be said in ardent praise of their strenuous efforts to help save the remaining business section of our town.

Later, Bellefontaine Fire Chief Blair arrived with hose and a detail on a special engine sent out of the yards at Bellefontaine. They were held up on the way on account of a freight with a broken drawbar, but their work after they arrived was most effective and will always be appreciated.



The engine which brought the Bellefontaine firemen, went on to Sidney and returned with Chief Hume, a squad of firemen and their Ahrens steam engine. They arrived about four thirty and remained throughout the day.

Early in the fight, the Quincy engine along with the faithful old "Billy Boggs" worked at the well, corner Main and Miami streets. When the Sidney engine arrived, they worked from Bokengehelas Creek south of the railroad and sent their streams northward. After the fire was under control, and the Quincy engine ceased pumping, both Sidney and DeGraff engines worked in the Main-Miami well, almost constantly until four o'clock in the afternoon, and there was no sign of exhaustion of water. Streams were thrown, at intervals, until Saturday evening, when there seemed no further danger of ignition. Sunday, thousands of people, from every direction, came to view the ruins of the southern part of our heretofore thriving village. The loss is estimated at one hundred thousand dollars with approximately forty per cent insurance. The property destroyed, beginning at the north on the west side of Main Street, is listed as follows:

Terrel Building—Containing Terrel Hardware Company, Loffer Bros. Grocery and W. M. Reynold's Tinnerns' and Roofing Tools.

Cory Building—Occupied by E. L. Cory with dry goods stock.

Myers Room—Building belonging to J. C. Myers and stock of shoes and men's furnishings owned by T. C. Myers.

Cretcher Rooms—Building owned by L. H. Cretcher and occupied by Mikel & Speece Harness Shop. Upstairs was located John Huston's Law Office.

Figley Block—Auto Livery. Upstairs, house rooms of James Figley and wife and Dick Runyon.

In the rear of these buildings, were Terrel's store room, blacksmith shop owned by D. R. Shidaker and occupied by J. W. Vermillion, barn of Mr. Shidaker and the Figley Livery Barn, occupied by Will Carpenter.

South of the alley:

Hedges Building—J. A. Hannah Harness Shop and Miller & Converse Hay Office.

John Huston Room—Occupied by Vance Craigs' Pool Room.

N. L. Strayer Room—Occupied by Lewis Amos' Bakery.

J. W. Walker Building—First floor vacant and second floor occupied by Joe Vankirk.

Tway Building—First floor occupied by John Bishop's Shoe Repair Shop and second floor by Clarence Graver and wife.

L. H. Cretcher Building—In which were stored A. R. Walker's household goods.

Phoenix Block—Emmett Notestine's Theatorium, R. H. Hill's Barber Shop, Miami Township Trustee' and Board of Education Office, Chas. Cretcher's Printing Office. On the second floor were the Farmers' Telephone Exchange, Frank Garver and wife's residence, George Lloyd and family, M. C. Bellaw and Christian Brethern Meeting Room.

In the rear were: Mrs. Lou Burdette's Blacksmith Shop, occupied by Charles McBrien; M. E. Sullivan's barn, Mrs. Burdette's barn, Casebolt Ice-house, owned by John Huston.

On the east side of Main Street:

Rexer Furniture Store—Plate glass damaged.

Frantz residence—occupied by W. J. Gessner and family, damaged.

Frantz Jewelry Store—Plate glass damaged.

Frantz Rooms—Occupied by Etha Pearl Norton with millinery room, prisoners' cells and municipal light plant.

Shoemaker Grocery—damaged by fire and water.

Journal Building—occupied by DeGraff Journal.

Lockhart Bros. Building—Occupied by Lockhart Garage.

Lockhart Building—Occupied by Garver Livery Barn.

Emory Lockhart Residence.

Barn belonging to Dr. W. C. Hance.

The fire was stopped at Dr. Hance's office. Had the flames reached the Mohr & Mercer Elevator, the heat would have been of several days' duration. Following is a fair estimate of property loss with insurance:

Name	Real Estate Loss	R. E. Ins.	Stock Loss	Stock Ins.
Phoenix Hotel	\$15,000	\$3,500	\$ 500	None
Cretcher Block	2,000	1,200	.....	.....
R. H. Hill .....	.....	.....	50	None
Miami Township .....	.....	.....	50	.....
E. V. Notestine .....	.....	.....	400	None
Farmers Telephone Co. ....	.....	.....	1,000	None
George Lloyd .....	.....	.....	150	None
John Tway	1,500	1,000	.....	.....
J. W. Walker	1,500	800	.....	.....
L. F. Amos	700	600	.....	.....
N. L. Strayer	1,000	600	.....	.....
Clarence Garver .....	.....	.....	300	.....
John Huston	1,000	.....	1,500	None
J. M. Hedges	1,300	1,000	.....	None
J. A. Hannah .....	.....	.....	2,500	Insured
James Figley	2,000	1,500	400	None

HISTORY OF DEGRAFF

Mikel & Speece .....	.....	.....	1,200	800
T. C. Myers .....	.....	.....	7,500	3,000
E. L. Cory .....	.....	.....	5,000	3,500
A. E. Cory Estate	3,000	1,500	.....	.....
Terrel Hardware Co. ....	.....	.....	7,000	3,600
Charles Terrel	5,500	2,500	.....	.....
Loffer Bros. ....	.....	.....	2,000	1,200
W. D. Carpenter .....	.....	.....	1,000	400
Frank Garver .....	.....	.....	50	None
Chas. McBrien .....	.....	.....	400	None
Lou Burdett	300	200	.....	.....
Vance Craig .....	.....	.....	800	500

CHARLES TERRELL

Two-thirds of the business houses were wiped out. Could DeGraff recover from such a loss?

A public meeting was held and much talk was indulged in, but, Charles Terrell was the man who did more than any one else to rebuild DeGraff. He erected two brick buildings of three business rooms each, one of them being three stories. It proved to be a financial success, but it took much faith and enterprise to carry it out. Notwithstanding the losses, the fire made a big improvement in the appearance of the town.—S. P. Pond, DeGraff Journal, July 1914.

In the 1910 to 1920 period, which was filled with floods, fires, war, and prohibition, we neglected to record that we carried on a yearly Chautauqua. It was held under a big tent on the present school grounds. Some years it was a free entertainment sponsored by the business men of DeGraff. Other years, tickets were sold and any deficiency assumed by the Chautauqua Committee. Only high class talent was engaged.

DeGraff has long born a reputation as a good community to live in. Credit has been given to good schools and good churches. There should be added that DeGraff patronized good entertainment. From our early days we had lecture courses, employing some of the best talent obtainable. In connection with our school, we had a Literary Society during the '70's and '80's. In these days of radio, television, and commentators, our former mode of entertainment could not succeed.

From 1920 to 1930

The Changing Times

The close of the war in November 1918 brought the world to America for goods and prices skyrocketed, reaching a peak in the Summer of 1920. A small break in prices in September,—then in November 1920 the bottom fell out, especially on textiles. Pacolet Brown muslin dropped from 25c wholesale to 10½c. Lancaster apron gingham from 32c to 15. Other textiles in proportion and all dealers took a loss on their January invoices. The farmer also suffered. Corn dropped from \$1.00 to 60c. And farm products stayed down all through the following ten years. And merchants in little towns made no money. People are buying automobiles even if it curtails the necessities of life. In this period, we find a distinct change in the moral of the people. Girls have become very independent. They have the right to vote, they are employed in every line of work. And now we have cocktail parties and gin has become a popular drink.

In 1927 my lady of fashion appears in a dress up to her knees, close clinging dress with "Knickers" instead of petticoats. The sales of muslin for panties and petticoats being eliminated, there is no use for embroidery, and that material in a merchants stock becomes obsolete. Along with the abbreviated dress in 1927 comes flesh colored hose and to top off the transformation is the woman with bobbed hair. "Great Scott", what would Grandma say? And beauty parlors sprang up over night and rouge and cosmetics and vanity cases were necessities.

The year 1925 is to see a change in the New York Central railroad location. It is to be moved about 500 feet south to get to higher ground and avoid the heavy grade east of town. The Bokengehales Creek is diverted at the dam and turned into the mill race to rejoin the creek east of town. Gone will be our skating pond. Gone will be our swimming holes—the "One" elm and the "Three" elm—necessities of our youthful days.

It has been claimed that the railroad spent two million dollars in making this improvement and building the high bridge across Stony Creek.

The greater the demand, the higher the stocks went until the fall of 1929. Some stocks were selling for thirty to forty times their earnings. Warnings were issued by well-intentioned financiers, but to no avail.

The end of the market boom came in September, 1929, but the big break came October 24. The market dropped so badly that a group of bankers made up a pool to buy stocks to steady the prices. It worked for a few days, but confidence was gone, and on Thursday, October 29, the bottom fell out. Everybody was selling and the ticker tape was several hours behind transactions. We were in Chicago and the Stevens Hotel was a scene of consternation. It developed that many of the help, even the house maids, held stocks on margin and had their savings wiped out. The daily papers in the evening edition, in great headlines, told the story and gave the low prices of stocks at close of the market, October 29th. And so the Coolidge prosperity was turned over to Hoover on March 4, 1939, but it developed that much of the business of the preceding years was done on the installment plan. Radios, washing machines, refrigerators, and other electric devices, were bought on monthly payment plans. The farmer, also, bought farm machinery and automobiles on mortgage security, and now money credit has shut down. Banks are calling loans because depositors are drawing out their savings.

And now, we come to a decade where there is a complete revolution as to finances and economic conditions.

Home Coming of 1924

The Home Coming of May 16th and 17th, 1924 was the greatest event ever put on in our school's history. There was an overflow crowd at the Alumni, Friday night, 430 being enrolled. On Saturday all congregated at the school ground, where there were long tables with barbecued meat and hams, with accompanying helpings of bread, baked beans, and condiments; also coffee and ice cream.

After much visiting, all joined in a parade of the town.

From 1930 to 1940

Roosevelt went into the White House, on March 4, 1933, and started things at once. We were in Miami when our hotel posted signs at the cashier's window, "No checks will be received from Michigan," because two banks in Detroit were in trouble. In a day or so more the hotel refused all checks. We had American Express checks, and in going to the Express office, we had to get in line as there were some fifty people ahead of us. Then, on March 6, the country was stunned with a message from the President closing every bank in the United States for four days. Meanwhile, their financial statements were to be examined as to when they could re-open. So we hurried home, to find our bank had opened on the 10th to start new accounts, and then, on the 14th, they received a message permitting withdrawals March 15. Such was the confidence of our patrons, that there was only one withdrawal.

DeGraff Before the Machine Age

We wrote a letter for the DeGraff Journal of August, 1934 and republish it.

"Centuries hence, when DeGraff shall have become a home for city people—when the trend is against the noise and environments of the congested city—when automobiles will travel over highways undreamed of now—when the business man of Columbus can have his home in DeGraff, and be at his place of business in Columbus in fifteen minutes—when that age arrives, perchance some ambitious DeGraff student may delve into the past ages, and history may portray to him pictures of a horse—an animal as extinct to him as the dinosaur is to us—and the

description will tell him that the horse was the only mode of inland transportation, save railroads, up to the 20th Century. He will gaze on the four legs of the animal and marvel how such a thing could go places, and he will seek information as to how his ancestors lived in that age, before invention changed the manner of living, and how it affected his town.

"So it seems fitting that someone who has lived in DeGraff, from the candle age to the electric age, who has spent three score and ten years with DeGraff as his home base, should for the future citizens of DeGraff relate how the machine age came in and how it transformed a growing town of 1,300 in the early '80's to one of some 400 less, five years later. In fact, it might be well to give a short history of how DeGraff was placed on the map.

"DeGraff was never considered until 1850, when William Boggs built a mill, which was located at the foot of Mill Street. In 1852 the railroad was surveyed, both through here and through Logansville. Because of the bend in the Miami river, which would require two bridges to be built, going via Logansville, the engineer of the railroad, a man by the name of DeGraff, advocated the location of the railroad south of the river, and that is the reason we are not living in Logansville today.

"Spring-Hill was quite a town at this time but with the location of a railroad in DeGraff we grew rapidly and soon had sawmills, flour mills, barrel factories, carriage factories, harness shops, shoemaking shops, a tannery, tailoring and dress shops, and everything that was necessary for self-subsistence.

"Raw products passed almost directly from producer to consumer, and the proceeds stayed in the community. The farmer brought hides to the tanner, the leather was sold to the shoemaker and harness maker, and came back to the farmer in shoes and harness. Mill products were ground at the mill and re-distributed. Wool was sent to the woolen mills, the merchant bought the yarn and hired local women to knit it into socks and stockings.

"The making of barrels was quite an industry and the shop of Charles Lipincott employed quite a number of men and he was an extensive shipper of barrels. One of my early remembrances is of a team of six oxen, the "gees and haws" and the crack of the whip, as they pulled a great hamper wagon of barrels to the railroad for shipment to distilleries.

"In our early life we had no pikes or sidewalks and in the Spring, after heavy rains, the roads would have a foot of mud and travel was only by horseback. Doctors visited their patients on horseback. Oftimes it was necessary to cling to the fences when navigating the so-called sidewalks. All lots had fences around them, as hogs and cows were allowed to run at large.

"In 1868 a pike was built, from West Liberty to DeGraff and on through to Bloomcenter, by Keating and Welsh. In 1869 the pike to Bellefontaine was built via the Carlisle pike.

"The period when we began to notice things was in 1869, when our father purchased the general store of Cory & Conroy. It was an age of hoop-skirts and bustles. One of the difficult things incumbent on a clerk at that time was to

know how to tie up a package containing a hoopskirt. Nor was it an easy task to tie up coffee as there were no sacks in those days. Coffee was sold in the bean (green) and heavy brown paper was used in tying up the package.

"There was little ready-to-wear apparel, as wooliens were bought by the yard, and made up by the local tailor. It was well along in our life, as a merchant, that all underwear was made at home, from cotton and woolen flannel, and it has been a long step, from the starched skirt and embroidered-trimmed drawers, of that age, to the filmy slips of the present age. And what would the grandmothers of that day think of the undies of today?

"Then machine-made goods began to take the place of local labor. Quantity production from machines took the place of hard labor. The local tannery could not compete with leather tanned by machine methods and so passed out of existence. Ready-made clothing displaced the local tailor, hosiery and underwear knit by machinery displaced local knitting. Coal made its appearance, displacing woad, which had been universally used and was quite an item of barter — a cord of hickory wood could be traded for a pair of leather boots. Well do we remember the first pair of rubber boots placed on exhibition, as there was much skepticism regarding them—would they go to pieces after getting wet?

"The age of steel was coming. In 1879, we heard with considerable astonishment that a McCormick binder was to give a demonstration at the Sam Koogler farm, of binding wheat with wire, and we remember that we did not think that it would be practical. There were threats from the laboring man, because wheat harvest furnished work for many town-men.

"Then came the age of electricity and DeGraff put in electric lights. In August, 1893, we had a municipal plant and were the first electrically lighted town in the county. With electricity came automobiles, radios and conveniences of every description. More and more, we demand conveniences, every new invention displacing some other commodity.

"In the coal oil age, coal oil was shipped to us in barrels, and that had to be laboriously transferred into a container. How many remember "Coal-Oil Johnny," (Johnny Hoag) who used to make weekly trips here in the interest of John D. Rockefeller?

"As we look back over the past fifty years, we realize there has been a great rise in our standards of living. We cannot have progress without change—new things will displace old—new methods displace old methods.

"In conclusion, when we think of our early boyhood—of the candle that lighted us to our humble bed—of the cold mornings that fires had to be made with wood and kindlings in old-fashioned stoves—the outside pump to be thawed—boots that had hardened over night and refused to go on our feet—four-foot wood in the woodhouse that must be sawed after school hours—well, it just seems that we were born fifty years too soon."

In August 1936, O. K. Reams of Zanesfield, got up a pageant commemorating the Sesqui-Centennial of the opening of the Northwest Territory. The pageant was to enact the troubles in Logan County with the Indians of 100 years ago.

DeGraff was asked to re-enact the near battle when Tecumseh came to Old Town with a band of Indians in August, 1806, and sought to get the Old Town Indians to join in wiping out the neighboring settlers. Simon Kenton, with a

party from the eastern part of the county, came to the rescue—the threats—the charges—the oratory both for and against—were portrayed in the story.

DeGraff accepted the assignment, knowing it would require a lot of work as there would be a cast of some fifty people, counting boys and girls, Indian costumes to be made, Indian songs and dances to be practiced. The scene of the play was at Indian Heights, in Bellefontaine. The whole program required three days and our appearance was to take place on Wednesday night, the second day. We were complimented on our performance, at least they applauded the songs the women sang, but had any Indians witnessed our attempts of portraying the Indian dance, they would have been after us with tommy hawks. That it may live in history, here is the list of actors:

Simon Kenton, H. B. Rush; Jas. McPherson, E. F. Felton; Chas. McIlvain, John Roby; Major Thomas Moore, W. E. VanTassel; Matthew Elliot, John Kinnan; Simon Girty, Howard Cretcher; Alexander McKee, Miller Hamsher; Tecumseh, Rev. A. W. Denlinger; The Prophet, Rev. E. S. Wones; Captain Lewis, Kelsey Smith; Panaththa, D. E. Strayer; Black Hoof, J. A. Shawan; Blue Jacket, Dr. Whitney; The Snake, Supt. P. C. Estep.

Thursday we had a big parade in which DeGraff furnished four floats—by the Canning Co., the Creamery, Roy Owings, and Bill Metz.

Much publicity and favorable comment was given to O. K. Reams, so that, when the government at Washington established a Commission to re-enact the opening of the Northwest Territory, that Commission selected O. K. Reams to be the head of the Northwest Caravan. This caravan was carefully selected from a large number of applicants. They must be men of mechanical ability for they must construct boats to cross rivers and to float down the Ohio River to Marietta. This caravan made a tour of Ohio and the Northwest Territory in the fall of 1938 and created much interest, so it was quite an honor that, from Logan County, was chosen their leader. This caravan showed at Bellefontaine on Friday, May 13, 1938, and the parade out to the Fairgrounds was witnessed by an immense crowd. We took part in the parade, representing Old Town in a float, gotten up by Win Kinnan, Elder Herring, Luella McKee, Myrtle Barnhart, and Edith Thatcher.

In December 1936 a contract was given G. H. Leach, of Cleveland, to build a water works system for DeGraff. The contract price totalled \$44,338.00 and was financed by the issue of bonds. Mr. Leach moved his family to DeGraff and was a citizen for several years. Water pipes were laid all over town and a stand pipe erected that was visible for many miles.

On Monday, January 30, 1939, there occurred one of the worst accidents of our time. At 1:45 p. m., while a gas tank was filling the cellar tank under the Owing's Hotel, the fumes from the gas reached the furnace and there was an explosion that ripped holes through the floor. Almost at once the sparks carried over to the big tank and it exploded with a terrific roar and Roy Owings and one of the gas employees were caught in the shower of gas and burned to death. Although Roy lived for several hours, he died from his burns. Burning particles of gas shot up several hundred feet and reached beyond Boggs Street.

DeGraff had suffered from many disastrous fires and once when we complained to an insurance agent about fire insurance rates, he said that every insurance company that carried DeGraff insurance was in the red on DeGraff. No fires of any consequence have occurred since the construction of the waterworks.

1940 to 1950

Soldiers of World War II – Conclusion

THE decade of the 40's opens with great history headlines in the papers:

“Congress Passes Conscription”

“United States gives England Fifty Destroyers”

“Germany breaks through the Maginot Line”

“France Surrenders”

The question on our mind is will England surrender and will she send her fleet to Canada before doing so. Sentiment in Congress seems to be: “No American blood shall be shed on foreign soil.” With war hanging over us and a national election pending, the year of 1940 is filled with apprehension and uncertainties.

Then came the 7th of December at 1:30 P. M., when the radio announced the Japs were dropping bombs on Pearl Harbor.

In June, 1939, there was a news article that the Duponts are spending \$10,000,000 to produce nylon, a fiber tougher and more elastic than silk, made out of coal, air, and water. Now we have hundreds of mills making hose of nylon. So many hosiery mills started up that now there is over production and much inferior hose on the market. The Mojud Mills, make a hose so elastic that they stretch to fit any stout legs and resume natural shape when off.

We can remember when all of our hose came from England, France, and Germany. They boasted they had mastered the dye process and were making a fast black color for hose. Trouble with American makes, the black would rub off and dye the foot. Their childrens' hose were black ribbed with a white foot and could be bought for \$1.25 per dozen to retail for \$.15. We bought them by the case. They had a heavy seam down the center of the foot which would render them unsalable today.

The Wayne Knit Mills at Fort Wayne brought over a lot of German operators and made a seamless stocking. Old timers will remember the Wayne Knit “Pony” brand for boys and girls in black, tan, and cordovan, selling for 25c a pair.

The War was over the 14th of August 1945 and then the government released raw materials. We began to get scarce merchandise.

World War II

We present herewith a list of soldiers who saw service in World War II. This list is of those belonging to the DeGraff School District, the same being posted on a bulletin board at the Presbyterian Church corner and is now reposing in the Town Hall. It was carefully copied and we hope it is complete.

Adair, William
Allison, David
Alloway, Max
Alloway, James
Angle, Clarence
Arthur, George

Bailey, Leon
Bailey, Harley
Bailey, Homer
*Berry, Edward
Brenner, J. Earl
Brenner, Wilson
Brunson, Jason Jr.
Brunson, Lawrence
Buck, Norman
Buck, Charles
Banning, William
Bradford, James
Bowdle, William
Blumenschein,
Charles Jr.
Block, Charles
Burns, William

Campbell, George
Jr.
Castle, Dwight
Chenault, William
Cloninger, James
Cloud, Robert
Comer, LeRoy
Comer, Ernest
Comer, Jack
Comer, Jess
Conner, William
Cox, James
Cox, Walter
Cox, Wilson
Coyer, Thurman
Cloninger, Donald
Carder, Robert
Chandler, Orlando
Chandler, Harry L.
Cretcher, James
*Cost, Robert

Detweiler, Paul
Detweiler, Joseph
DeWeese, Lowell
Detrick, James
Dye, John L.
Denlinger, Everett
Davidson, Glenn
Detweiler, Mary
Dew, Floyd
Dressback, Carl L.

Evilsizor, Kermit
Easton, Edwin
Edwards, Harry

Foreman, William
Freese, James
Furrow, Ralph
Furrow, Martin
Furrow, Kenneth
Friend, Arden
Forsythe, Lewis
*Felger, Charles
Fuson, Martha J.
Fuson, Phyllis

Gannon, John
Gates, Sherman
Gentis, Cecil
Garver, Paul
Gutilla, Jack
Gunyou, Elton
Grandstaff, James
Goings, Robert
Goings, Charles
Goings, Mart

Haynes, Theodore
Hatcher, Ray
*Headings, Boyd
Hengsteler,
William
Hengsteler, James
Hengsteler, Wayne
Henman, David
Hess, Max
Hinkle, Taylor

Henman, Ralph
Hittepole, Lester
Hittepole, Ray
Houchin, Kenneth
Houchin, Fred
Hughes, David
Hollinger, Robert
Hurley, Ralph
Huston, Mary
Huber, Melvin
Huber, Harley
Harshbarger,
Robert
Hough, Martha
Lou

Icenogle, Eldon

Jackson, William
Jenkins, Frank
Jones, George
Jarrett, Fred

Keenen, Fred
Keenen, David
Keenen, Ray
Keenan, John D.
Knief, Richard
Knief, Robert
Kuntzman, Wilbur
Kuntzman, Karl
Kerr, James
Kauffman, Lee
King, Dane

Loffer, Willard
Loffer, William
*Loffer, James
Longbrake, Jesse
Lowe, Edward
Lantz, Robert
Leagre, August

Madden, Floyd
Madden, Glenn
Madden, Lyman
*Deceased

Madden, Robert	Prater, Ann	Strayer, Harley
Manahan, Alvin	Purk, Wilbur	Stuts, George
Manahan, Merle	Price, Wilbur, Jr.	Stiles, Robert
Manahan, William		Shindewolfe,
Mohr, William	Rairdon, Richard	Richard
Mohr, Dick	Ralston, Darrell	Strayer, Orville
Moore, Calvin	Riddle, Ralph	
Murphy, Elton	Roby, Charles	Tanger, Charles
Meese, Oliver	Rufus, Richard	Trout, Millard
Mustaine, Herbert		Trout, Carl
Moffitt, Wayne	Strasser, Joseph	Turner, Harold
	Snapp, Clarence	Turner, Robert
Nelson, Jason Jr.	Shindewolfe, Eddie	Taylor, Roger
Notestine, Charles	Shape, Russell	Tamplin, Glenn
*Nogle, LeRoy	Shape, Eddie	Truesdale, James
Niefer, Charles	Shape, Richard	
	Shawan, Jake	Ward, Leo
Oaks, Paul	Shreves, Irving	Ward, Paul
Oaks, Eugene	Shultz, Charles	Weatherby, Max
Oaks, Frank	Shultz, Hamer	Wilgus, Marvin
	Smith, Frank	*Wilgus, Richard
Patterson, Ralph	Smith, Jack	Wood, Joseph
Petty, John	Smith, Homer	Wallace, Junior
Petty, Herbert	Smith, Richard	Wolfe, John
Petty, Ralph	Smith, Thurman	Wallace, Dave
Piper, Harold	Spain, Gerald	Weeks, Ralph
Piper, William	Spain, Harold	Wilgus, Roy
Piper, Neal	Spain, LeRoy	
Pool, Kenneth	Stevens, Romaine	Yoder, Warren
Prater, John	Stephenson, Earl	Yoder, Harold
Prater, Jack	Strayer, Donald	Yoder, Charles E.
Purk, Roger	Strayer, Sherman	
Pulfer, Roy		*Deceased

Several signed up for army service, just as the war closed and their names do not appear on the bulletin board. Five fine boys on the roster gave their lives for their country. Boyd Headings lost his life on a bombing engagement near the Island of Sicily; James Loffer lost his life in the battle for Guam Island; Richard C. Wilgus was killed in a naval engagement off the coast of Okinawa; Leroy Nogle was with McArthur's army on Luzon. He was detailed to observe battery firing and was picked off by a Jap sharpshooter; Robert Cost was killed in the Battle of Luzon; Ralph Hughes was killed in the Battle of Okinawa, he is not in our roster of soldiers, because he was not of our school district, but he was of our Spring Hill territory. From our neighbor town, Quincy, three boys were killed in action—Walter Brown in France, Leron Stockwell at Iwo Jima, Kenneth Oscar Watkins in France.

These boys, who gave up their lives for their country, were for the most part, yet in their teens; for the first time in their lives they were going far from home—they were seeing distant lands—no doubt they were thrilled with the sight of big ships—of tropical scenes, of foreign islands—and then, the excitement of battle

and all is over. They were brought back to be buried in our home cemeteries.

“On fame’s eternal camping ground
Their silent tents are spread
And glory guards, with solemn sound
The bivouac of the dead.”

In Conclusion

We wish to give credit to Miss Fern Burdette for some very interesting historical contributions and to numerous friends who have contributed letters which we have incorporated into this history.

In writing this history, we have had recourse to diaries and memoranda that covered all our business career—going back even to our school days—in a way, we have lived over our life experience.

As we look over a business directory of DeGraff in 1873, published in this book, we find that Strayer’s Store is the solitary name in existence today. True, there was a Rexer Funeral Home, but it was John F. Rexer. There was a newspaper, “The Banner,” with Dan Spellman as editor. There was a bank, “Stut’s,” located in the Price Hotel building, where the Beauty Shoppe is today.

There was a drugstore, Weller’s, but all other businesses have passed out of existence.

We can draw a picture of the Strayer Store and its contents. A two-story building, located where the store of Armstrong and Kinnan’s now stands. The front windows were of eighteen by twenty-four glass, the lighting system was coal oil lamps set in brackets extending from the top of the shelving. In the shelves were green boxes made of cardboard on wooden frames, that contained laces, embroideries, ribbons, and various other items. On the counters were stacks of twenty-seven inch calico, and large rolls of cassimeres and cottonades, and flannels for underwear. In the grocery department, everything was in bulk—no packaged goods—no sacks or containers of any kind. Everything must be weighed and tied up. Crackers and sugar came to us in barrels and coffee came in 150 pound bags.

The fractional currency used in those days consisted of pennies, the same as today. Two-cent pieces of copper, twice the size of a penny, were used and a three-cent piece that resembled the dime of today was in use. All the other money was paper. There was a 5-cent script about two inches long, and a 10-cent script a little larger. Fifteen-cent script and fifty-cent script were all graded accordingly. The Buffalo nickel came in later, as did ten-cent, twenty-five cent, and fifty-cent pieces in silver. A merchant must keep for change at least \$10 in five and ten-cent denominations. Just think what a mess it would be in paper 5-and-10-cent currency.

The sidewalks in front of a business room were paved with rough flagstone, and there were street crossings at the public square of flagstone.

Gone are the four livery stables of that period. Gone are the hitching racks, that fronted every business room. Gone are the lamp posts that provided a feeble light at important centers.

We have in our possession, a page of the Special Feature Section, of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, dated September 3, 1911. Across the faded page in heavy type, is printed, "America's Center of Virtue." Also, in brackets, in bold type, "DeGraff has been without law-breakers, debt, sickness, poverty or great wealth for a generation." The page carries the pictures of Mayor Sullivan, Marshal Phil Detrick and Fire Chief Perry Pond. This is the result of a visit to DeGraff by a Plain Dealer representative, W. C. Howell, and his interview with Mayor Sullivan and Marshal Detrick. He reports that Marshal Detrick is going to give up his job as marshal, paying \$100 per year, because, he isn't earning it. The description is grossly overdrawn, in order to make DeGraff a paragon of virtue. From a physical comparison, DeGraff of 1950, is a hundred per cent ahead of DeGraff of 1911.

Now for the present DeGraff. We doubt if there be a town in the state the size of DeGraff, with as fine a business district. All rooms newly painted, newly equipped with modern fixtures, with good schools, churches, and many modern homes. We are living in an entirely different style than our ancestors, even those of forty years ago. We little thought at that time what electricity was going to do; what chemistry was going to do with nylon and plastics; and now we have television.

And who can foretell what the Atom Age will produce. For us it brings no worry. For it suggests that we quote:

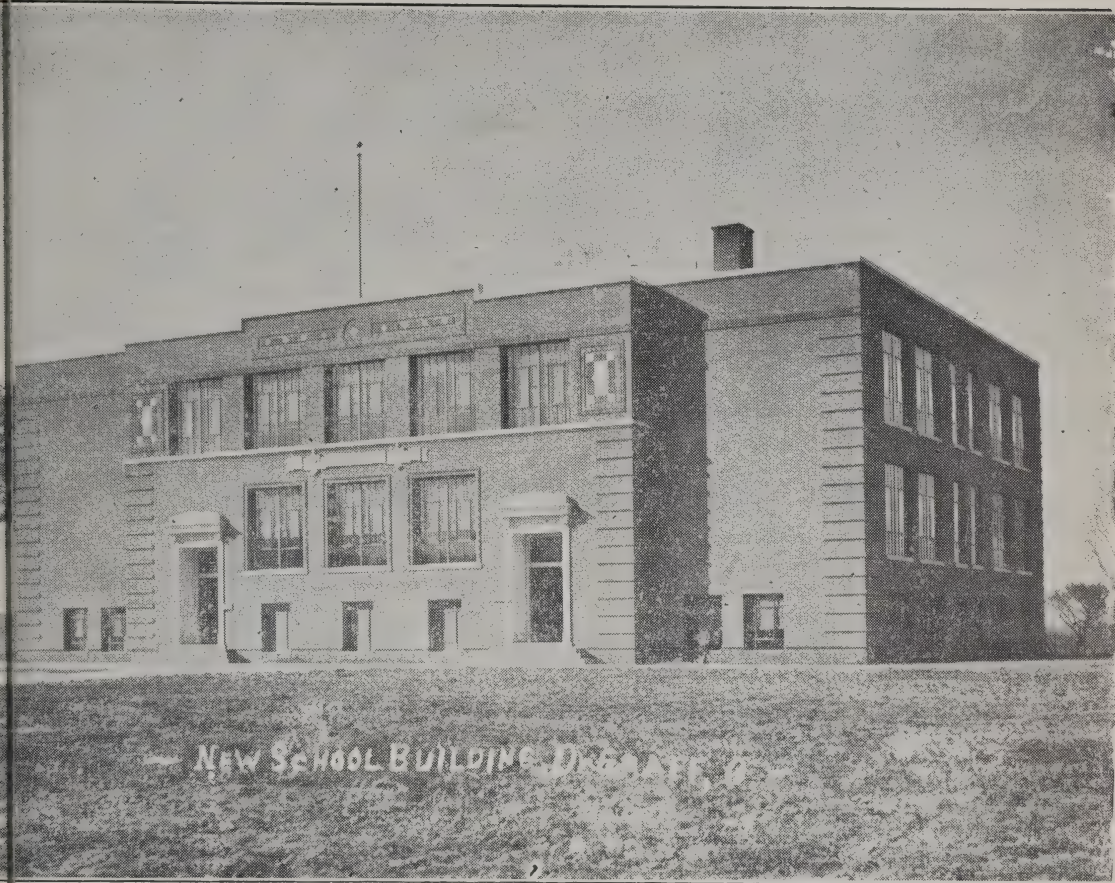
"Again in dreams we'll walk along
The shaded lane, far from the throng
In reverie again we'll see
The pictured things that used to be.
Let's contemplate a while the scene
E'er cars were run by gasoline,
Or motor trucks were bearing loads,
Or Ford had cluttered up the road.
Oh, let the soul her slumber break,
Let thoughts be quickened and awake to see
How soon this life is past and gone,
And death comes swiftly stealing on
"How Silently."

And now we close our history. It will have a wide circulation. There are members of DeGraff School Alumni living in every state in the Union except one. Nearly all will subscribe for the history.

If we have provided a reference book for historical research, that may be found 100 years hence at the Ohio Library of Columbus, and if we have brought back to the memory of our older readers incidents of their childhood, precious memories long forgotten; and if among the younger element, we have brought a sense of loyalty to their town and school, then we have not labored in vain.

And so we close our efforts as historian, "leaving here a name we trust, that will not perish with the dust."

D. E. Strayer



DeGraff School

"I've wandered to the village, Tom
I've sat beneath the tree
Upon the schoolhouse playground
That sheltered you and me
But none were left to greet me, Tom
And few were left to know
Who played with me upon the green
Just forty years ago"
—McGuffey 5th

Wherever early pioneers gathered in sufficient numbers, they must have a church and a school, and so it was in DeGraff, that in 1853, they established a school in the new building afterwards known as the Miami Hotel, built by Jas. Askren, who moved here in 1851 from Logansville, and used one room of the building for a business room; the other room was used as a railroad dining room, and

the upstairs was converted into a school. Wm. M. Strayer, father of your historian, who had spent several terms at Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, was the first teacher.

The house on Mill Street was then used while they built a school house on the lot now owned by Joe Weller. This school house was used for 6 or 8 years, but the town was growing, and the school soon proved inadequate, so they sold the building for a Catholic Church.

A four-room brick school building was being erected, (Walker and the Fulmers) at the corner of Boggs and Miami Streets, so temporary quarters were in a building where now stands Armstrong & Kinnan Hardware Store. The downstairs was occupied by T. J. Smith Shoe Store. This memorandum is offered in evidence:

November 23, 1864

"School began today in the upstairs over the Smith Shoe Shop. The girls in my class are Lutie Peyan, Sallie Tennery, Anna Galbreath, Jennie McClain, Callie Hayes, Cora Shriver, Flora Rea, Alice and Nettie Taylor, and Eliza Boyer. The boys are Will Boyer, Chris Lippencott. The teacher is Margaret Moore (Mrs. Will Rea).

"The older scholars, whose teacher is David Moury, are George and Ben Pool, Etta and Willis Carl, Turner Stewart, Tom, Joseph, and Mary Cookston, Dan, Tom, and Emma Spellman."

Written by Emma Strayer

The new school room was completed in the fall of 1866. One history printed in 1880 gives the date of completion as 1867, but we should know because we were there. The date was October 1, 1866, and we can see and picture just how it looked. To the east a long wood house, and a board fence all around the lot. The entrance on Miami Street was over a stile—4 steps up and 4 steps down. A wide board walk and double doors opening into a hall, steps to the right and left heading upstairs. Only three rooms were used at the opening.

Nannie Moore was our teacher; Wesley Strayer taught First grammar; and David Moury the high school.

This building of 4 rooms was sufficient to take care of all scholars until 1878, when, because of so many from the country coming in, it was necessary to build a six-room building, which was completed in 1879.

A select school was held in rooms over the Building and Loan office in the winter of 1878, which Dr. W. F. Kuhn taught.

To give you an idea of how salaries were in the early days, Professor Wagner resigned as Supt. of DeGraff School during the Christmas holidays of 1872 because he had accepted a position as Supt. of the Tippecanoe School at \$100 per month. And here is another item on salary. The date is July 10, 1885.

"George W. Walker was elected Supt. of our school over Prof. Harlan, who has been our Supt. Kate M. Cretcher was elected as Primary and Assistant High School teacher at \$50 per month. Jennie Reynolds was promoted to 5th room at \$45 per month. Ona Matson has the 4th room, at \$35 per month. Jennie Slater has the 3rd room at \$35 per month. Carrie Galer has the 2nd room at \$35 per month."

This George Walker was a popular teacher, but he introduced military training. Some favored it and some opposed. So, when his year was up, the military

training became quite an issue, and after a long controversy, Walker was defeated.

As we have had three wars since then, we are inclined to believe that Walker had some vision. Professor J. W. Zeller from Findlay, Ohio, was elected as Supt. for the year 1876. The high school, up to this time, had been conducted as a grammar school. Zeller introduced a higher grade of studies and produced a graduating class of three, in 1876.

Zeller was succeeded in 1877 by Wm. F. Kuhn, who came here from Belle Center. Professor Kuhn did not think the Zeller Curriculum was standard for graduating qualifications, and so made some additions, and added a year to its consumation. And so it was in May, 1880, that the 1st class made its appearance in Weller Hall. No financial help was given this class. To pay for the hall and programs they had to dig down in their pockets.

No Sidney Orchestra furnished music, as they did for many years following. However, a quartette, composed of P. L. Neer, H. P. Runyon, Mrs. Kate Rathmell Turner, and Miss Emma Strayer, furnished excellent vocal music at no cost. Since 1880, there has been some 1500 who have received their diplomas from the DeGraff School.

Along about 1916, a state law was passed centralizing all schools. The little brick school in the country must close and scholars were hauled to the district high school. And now again, DeGraff must have a new school building. The one in use cannot be added to, because it is condemned. Not having heating nor ventilating requirements to meet state inspection.

Commodious grounds are secured, which are giving ample playground even yet, and a new building approved by the school board. There is much opposition to the cost of the new building, and court action was enforced to delay the building. During the delay, the prices of labor and material advanced, so the architect had to curtail the size of the building so as to meet the bond issue. All of which was too bad, for already an addition had had to be added to it. So, here in 1924 ocured our first alumni home coming. It was a big affair. Over 300 attended the barbecue of roast pork and beef. It was cooked in a long trench in the school ground, where there was much visiting during the lunch, and then following the big parade. Every class was represented.

Superintendents of DeGraff School

David Moury—1866; Charles Palmer—1868; J. G. Wagner—1870; George Turner—1872; Charles Baughman—1873; A. W. Snyder—1874; A. C. Naragon—1875; J. W. Zeller—1876; W. F. Kuhn—1877; P. D. Brooks—1882; G. W. Walker—1885; Frank Wall—1886; B. B. Harlan—1884; Joseph Swisher—1887; C. J. Britton—1892; L. H. Beeler—1903; N. H. Stull—1909; L. F. Hale—1910; S. A. Frampton—1911; W. H. Durkee—1919; R. D. Conrad—1921; A. C. Kreglow—1924; Paul C. Estep—1929; F. M. Lash—1941; W. L. Hostetler—1945.

PRESENT FACULTY

W. L. Hostetler, Superintendent

Ruth Plummer, first grade; Eloise Pool, second grade; Plyllis Short, third grade; Cleo Wartsler, fourth grade; Marian Douglas, fifth grade; Phyllis Sidle, sixth grade; Russell Getson, science, mathematics; Fred Keenan, physical education, mathematics, English; Elizabeth Foulk, English; Mabel Williams, commercial subjects; James C. Musser, mathematics, history; Russell Elson, vocational agriculture; June Smith, home economics; W. L. Hostetler, Spanish, history.

Other employees—Revilla Hostetler, first grade assistant; Mrs. Carpenter, cook; Harold Lantz, maintenance; Eileen Williamson, office secretary.

Community Churches



DeGraff Methodist Church

"We love Thy church, O God
Her walls before Thee stands
Dear is the apple of Thine eye
And graven on Thy hand
For her my tears shall fall
For her my prayers ascend
For her my toils and cares shall be
Till toils and cares shall end."

Among the pioneers who came to DeGraff in its infancy were some who were Methodists in religion, and who decided they must have a Methodist Church in

DeGraff. Among the organizers were Mrs. Isaac Smith, Dennis Warner, Mrs. Cyrus Crowe, who in the year 1855 decided to build a church at the northwest corner of the lot on Koke Street, from the alley east of the printing office. They were joined in this enterprize by the Shrivvers, Gilcrest, Spellmans, and others. So, in the summer of 1857, John and Elzy Pegan erected a frame building of ample size, and the church grew in numbers at once. Two miles northeast of DeGraff there had been built a church, known as Hank's Church, which was soon abandoned and its membership transferred to the DeGraff Church. From it came such sterling characters as the Hubers, the Makemsons, Hendersons, Kinsingers, Smiths, Coulters, Hanks, and Turners.

One and one-half miles southwest of town was a community known as Olive Chapel, which deserves a place in history. The War of 1812 made of Urbana a recruiting outpost for Hull's Army. Many of this army were from Virginia and Kentucky. They liked Champaign County, and, after the war, they bought Congress land and made quite a settlement in northwest Champaign County. Many of these soldiers were direct descendants of Revolutionary fathers who had left Europe in order to have religious liberty.

Into this community came my grandfather from Berkeley County, Virginia, in 1830, and here my father spent his boyhood. Many years ago he wrote a history of Olive Chapel Church, from which we quote, "In the spring of 1825 they organized a society, of which Abner Newman was appointed leader. They met at homes and had prayer meetings. In the year 1828 they took it in hand to build a house for the Lord. In due time choppers, hewers, and haulers had the materials prepared. A hewed log meeting house 28 by 32 was erected on a little mound near where the present Newman Cemetery is today. The legitimate name of the house was Mount Moriah, but it was usually known far and near as Newman's meeting house. Though rude and unpolished, it corresponded to the civilization around it, and from its pulpit sounded out the word of the Lord. Here listening multitudes were spellbound by words from the eloquent lips of the Sainted Raper. The quarterly meetings held in the church were times of unusual interest. They frequently began on Friday evening and closed with Communion service Monday morning.

The official brethren, though living fifteen miles away, answered to the roll call, and great numbers were entertained at the homes of the brethren, the sleeping capacity being equal to the width of the house."

The greatest awakening of religious zeal in the Methodist Church in DeGraff came in the winter of 1871 under the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Miller. Practically all the business men in DeGraff were converted and joined some of the churches. Then came the cyclone of June, 1872 that picked up the Methodist Church, carried it several hundred feet, and deposited it in what was then a gravel pit. This was a serious loss because the church carried no insurance. The Presbyterians kindly tendered the use of their church, and for the following twenty-one months services were held there. It was decided to rebuild in a more central point, so on January 1, 1873, lot no. 4, where the church now stands, was bought for \$400 from Abram and Mary Huber. Lot no. 3 was also bought from the same party for a parsonage, price \$1400. Jerry Spellman, Add Henderson, Cyrus Makemson, John W. Thatcher, and Dr. Gilcrest were Trustees.

On the 7th of June, just one year after the cyclone, the corner stone of the church was laid, and the following articles deposited in the receptacle: a Bible,

a Methodist hymn book, Methodist papers, and the "DeGraff Banner" of the previous year, giving an account of the storm. The services were held by Rev. Wykes, and contributions to the amount of \$868 were made. On Sunday, January 18, 1874, the new church was dedicated, with Dr. Donaldson preaching the sermon. The total amount raised was \$5,233.

This building sufficed until 1910—36 years—when there was a necessity for more room to accommodate Sunday School. This was done under the pastorate of Rev. E. L. Davis. All that part of the building over the present basement was added at a cost of \$15,000, plus \$2,500 for a pipe organ, to which Andrew Carnegie contributed \$1,250. The rededication sermon was made by Rev. Joshua Stanfield of Indianapolis on November 20, 1910. Ex. Governor J. Frank Hanby delivered the afternoon lecture to a capacity crowd. By the close of the evening service, the entire debt had been subscribed. The choir was composed of Emma Strayer, Mrs. J. H. Dachenbach, L. F. Hale, T. C. Myers, Lloyd Walker, Miss Elinor Hurst, Miss Ethel Langford, with Mrs. T. C. Myers at the organ. Miss Rose Leader of Indianapolis was the vocalist for the occasion. The clock in the tower was put in by popular subscription. The large handsome 8-day clock at the north side of the building is the donation of S. C. Frantz. The parlor was completely furnished with rugs, table, and chairs, by Miss Emma Strayer, Chas. Strayer, D. E. Strayer, and Mrs. R. O. Bigley as a memorial to their mother, Mary J. Strayer. The next event in the religious line was a tabernacle meeting of all the churches. A large building was erected on Walker Street and the evangelist was Rev. Forsythe of Chicago. This meeting lasted several weeks with much interest and many accessions to the church. Mention should be made of Dr. Shawan, of his influence in the church and community. After many years serving as Supt. of Columbus schools, he came here to spend his declining years with his son, Jacob Shawan, Jr. He was a very good man.

Somewhere near thirty years ago, we were called to see Mrs. Ann Gilcrest, who was, at that time, the oldest member of the Methodist Church and was in declining health. She told us she wanted to make a gift to the church of the thirty-nine acres of land adjoining Greenwood Cemetery. We lost no time in closing up the deal, and the gift in recent years has been very productive.

Few know about the Strayer fund that has been coming from the Lima National Bank for the past twelve years, so we will make it a matter of record. Charles A. Strayer departed this life in 1936 leaving as part of his estate, 100 shares of United Telephone stock, of par value, \$10,000. It was decided by his heirs to put this stock in a trust fund for the benefit of the DeGraff Methodist Church as a memorial to him and the other members of the Strayer family, the Lima Bank acting as trustee. The telephone stock was subsequently sold for \$8,500 and that amount was invested in bonds, which have to be approved from time to time by a member of the D. E. Strayer family, as they become due and are to be replaced. The full value of the trust will accrue to the church, when the remaining members of the original family have departed this life.

The following pastors have served the church:

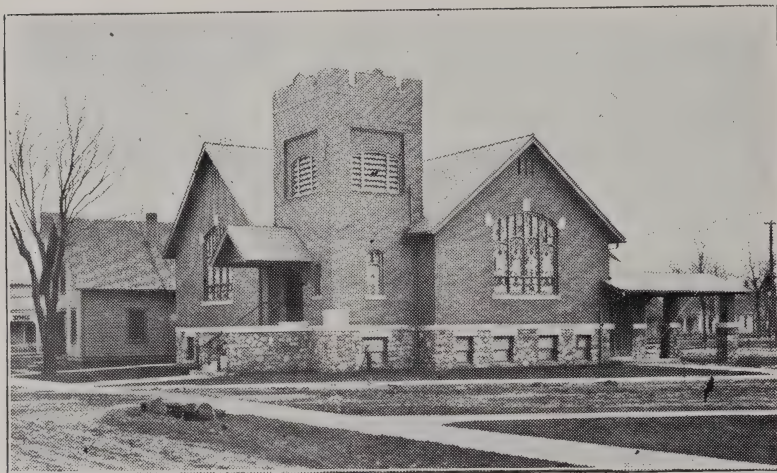
John Graham, 1857; A. Lease, 1858 and 59; Wm. Peck, 1860; A. J. Stuts, 1861 and 62; D. G. Good, 1863; I. N. Smith, 1864; E. B. Morrison, 1865; D. G. Strony, 1866; R. D. Oldfield, 1867; B. W. Cozier, 1868 and 69; P. A. Drown, 1870 and 71; J. W. Miller, 1872, 73, and 74; E. D. Whitlock, 1875; D. D. Matthew, 1876; S. H. Alderman, 1877; W. W. Winter, 1878 and 79; H. J. Bigley, 1880, 81, and 82; Peter Biggs, 1889 and 90; Caleb Hill, 1891 and 92; L. O. Cook, 1893 and 94; L. M. Deweese, 1895; R. H. Balmer, 1896 and 97; M. Gascoigne, 1898 and

99; Walter Leatherman, 1900 and 01; Chas. A. Smith, 1902, 03, and 04; Daniel Carter, 1905; M. D. Baumgardner, 1906 and 07; E. L. Davis, 1908, 09, 10 and 11; E. S. Keller, 1912, 13, and 14; A. W. Dubois, 1915 and 16; W. W. Motter, 1917 and 18; Clark Gowdy, 1919, 20, 21, and 22; A. J. Bussard, 1923, 24, and 25; J. T. Yocum, 1926 and 27; J. C. Stitzel, 1928 and 29; Harry Lyons, 1930 and 31; D. A. Hall, 1932, 33, and 34; E. S. Wones, 1935 and 36; J. C. Kluesner, 1937 and 38; Carl Brown, 1939, 40, 41, and 42; Norman Sweat, 1943, 44, 45, and 46; D. H. Householder, 1947.

Our present pastor, Rev. D. H. Householder, has had a very successful experience during his two year service here. He has added some 117 names to the membership of the church. Now the Schantz-built-pipe organ is wearing out, and best advice is that any more repairs is throwing away money and so, on Aug. 12, 1949, a contract was let for a Wick organ—price \$7,450, which was \$820 less than the Schantz bid.

The Strayer's are planning to add chimes to the organ, as a memorial to Mrs. D. E. Strayer, wife and mother, who was the organist at the time of her decease, and for many years previous. We who enjoy freedom of religion should have some record of why our forefathers came here in order to enjoy that freedom. In looking up the Strayer history, our oldest ancestor was Nicholas Strayer, of Berkeley County, Virginia, and that he was chairman of the finance committee that built a new German Lutheran Church at Shepherdstown, Virginia, and at the dedication of same in July, 1795, the Rev. Young made this statement, "May you be mindful, my dear church members of the great goodness of God that you dwell in a land where has existed for twenty years of republican government, such as is found no where else in the world. That at the head of that government is the President of the United States, George Washington. As we are free citizens and inhabitants, we enjoy in addition to other privileges, the invaluable ones of religious and civil freedom."

by D. E. Strayer



History of the Presbyterian Church, DeGraff, Ohio

We today are indeed thankful that our forefathers labored unceasingly that we may enjoy the many blessings and privileges we have today. They must have been motivated by the will of God, as they erected churches, and faithfully established the religion of Jesus Christ, we may well think that these words of the Psalmist were in their hearts and minds.

Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain
that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchmen
waketh but in vain. Psalm 127.

Filled with the spirit of love and devotion, a few people in DeGraff and community early in the year of 1865 began to lay plans for the organizing of a Presbyterian church in DeGraff, after much prayer and discussion, a petition was presented to the Presbytery of Sidney, Ohio, at its regular stated meeting held in Bellefontaine, Ohio in April 1865, asking for the organization of a Presbyterian church in DeGraff, Logan County, Ohio. Presbytery appointed a committee of three; Rev. G. L. Kalb, Rev. Allen Telford, and elder Robert Smith to visit DeGraff, and to organize a church if the way be clear.

Prayer meetings were held, and the new church was much in thought and discussion. The committee appointed by Presbytery then called a meeting for 10:00 a. m. May 13, 1865, to organize The First Presbyterian Church of DeGraff, Ohio. The following petitioners were present: Lyman Doane, Martha Doane, Nancy Murphy, William Campbell, Martha Barnhart, Jane Boggs, Elizabeth Huston, Mary A. McElroy, Hannah Reynolds, Aron Mitchell, Sarah C. Mitchell and Martha Mitchell. The church was duly organized, and one elder chosen to rule for the time being. On May 23, 1865, a meeting was called, and Rev. W. H. Honnell was chosen as the first supply pastor.

The first church edifice was constructed on Miami Street in 1866, and was dedicated January 1, 1867. This church filled its place well in the community,

and for 45 years services were regularly held in the white frame church we knew so well on Miami Street. The growth of the Sunday School, and other church organizations, presented problems that could be solved only by acquiring a larger and more modern church home. The congregation was agreed on this point and a building site was purchased at the corner of Main and Miami streets, and the erection of a new church building was started in 1910, and was completed and dedicated in April, 1911. This building is modern in construction and stands today as a monument in memory to those who made it possible.

Space does not permit the recording of all the names of pastors or great church leaders who have given so much for this church, but we do feel that a Presbyterian history of the DeGraff church would be lacking if it did not bring to your memory such names as Rev. F. M. Kumler and Dr. H. G. Rice whose great ability and untiring endeavor as pastor and true minister contributed so very much toward the success of the Presbyterian Church in DeGraff.

Under the leadership of Rev. Howard Ruppelt, we of today, in marking the eighty-fifth year of service of the Presbyterian church in this community, on this centennial of the village of DeGraff in the year A.D. 1950, do humbly give thanks to our God for the faithfulness of our fathers and mothers, who established the religion of our Lord, and have given to us our present possibilities of service to our God, and to our fellow men.

Life's stream flows ever onward,
At times into pools calm and clear;
Then on o'er the dangerous rapids
As sorrow and failure seem near.
There is a light to reveal in the darkness,
Hidden rocks along life's stream;
There is hope in our hearts eternal
Ever bright as the beacon's beam.
We give thanks for the light ever shining,
For this hope that sustains each day,
We thank God for our fathers and mothers,
And the church they built by the way.

Howard Doane

Baptist Church

On January 20, 1860, the following persons met at the home of S. B. Lippincott:

S. B. Lippincott, A. J. Lippincott, Wm. White, C. L. Stewart, J. M. Askren, J. K. Valentine, W. B. Stouteymire, J. H. Valentine, Samuel Gillfilin, Elizabeth Petty, Sarah Moore, Sarah Petty, Elizabeth Lippincott, Caroline Lippincott, Jane White, Susanath Stewart, Margaret D. Askren, M. E. Valentine, Nancy Stouteymire, Rachel Thomas, Nancy L. Lippincott Spellman, Sarah Dolph, Mary Moore, S. A. Shoup, Irene Weaver.

The above named having received letters of dismission from the regular Baptist Church of Quincy, met for the purpose of organizing a church in DeGraff. E. J. Schooler was chosen to act as moderator. J. M. Askren was elected clerk and S. B. Lippincott and W. B. Stouteymire were chosen to serve as deacons and C. L. Stewart was elected Singing Clerk.

On February 29, 1860, a committee composed of pastors from Quincy, Belle fontaine, Myrtle tree, and Lena were invited to sit in council for the purpose of recognizing this group of Christians as a regular and independent Baptist Church.

Articles of faith were drawn up and adopted and the church covenant and rules for conducting business were accepted. After hearing these read the committee voted to recognize this group as the First Baptist Church of DeGraff. A. J. Wiant gave the charge to the church and Rev. D. Scott preached the sermon and extended the hand of Fellowship to these Christians.

The first services were held in the home of S. B. Lippincott with Elder A. J. Wiant as the first pastor. A building committee was chosen to superintend the building of a church house. D. S. Spellman and Rebecca Vanker (Mrs. Frank Pegan) were the first members to be received into this new church membership. The present church site was purchased in 1860 and on October 20, 1860, the church house was dedicated to the services of Almighty God. Rev. Dr. Colver of Cincinnati preached the dedication sermon. C. L. Stewart was the first janitor and received a salary of \$20 a year. He was to cut the wood in the yard and keep the church in good order. The first Sunday School was organized April 20, 1861.

In the early years of the church strict discipline and oversight over members were observed, and those who trespassed were called before the church body to answer for their misdemeanors and if unrepentant, the hand of the church fellowship would be withdrawn until such time as they were willing to repent and be reinstated.

From its very beginning the church has supported home and foreign missions. In June, 1865, the lot west of the church was purchased and the parsonage built in 1875. In 1873 the church elected its first organist, Miss Clara Lippincott. As the years passed the church membership grew and many wonderful revivals have been held through the years. The first Ladies Aid Society was organized in 1892. In 1904 Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Doane deeded to the trustees of the church the ground across from the church to be used as a hitching lot. In 1918 the World Wide Guild was organized. Two of our former pastors, Rev. Woodworth and Rev. W. A. Thompson were ordained while serving the church. On September 15, 1935, a fine home-coming was enjoyed. Many former members and former pastors participated in the services. In 1943 extensive improvements were made at the parsonage and in 1947 the interior of the church received new paint and paper and other needed improvements. Recently new windows have been installed in the church. These were given in memory of the J. M. Forsythe family.

We are thankful for God's goodness to us through these years and of the many memories we have of those who so faithfully served in years past and our prayers go forth for God's continuing presence.

The following pastors have served the church from 1860: Elder Wiant, Elder Snider, Rev. D. Bryant, Rev. G. W. Taylor, Rev. Ross, Rev. E. B. Smith, Rev. G. A. Dowdy, Rev. Bowser, Rev. F. M. Taylor, Rev. N. Y. Mathews, Rev. Arthur Cooper, Rev. Philip Bauer, Rev. O. E. Eagy, Rev. E. C. Myers, Rev. Woodworth, Rev. B. E. Dunn, Rev. Chas. Bebb, Rev. A. W. Denlinger, Rev. O. E. Miller, Rev. J. G. Beard, Rev. W. A. Thompson, Rev. A. W. Denlinger, Rev. A. W. Snor, Rev. A. W. Denlinger, Rev. F. G. Maurer.

Our present pastor is Kenneth C. Conrad, who came to us August 17, 1949. We should like to pay tribute to Rev. A. W. Denlinger, who served the church for the greatest number of years. He was with us 21 years during three periods as pastor, and has always been ready to step in and help us in any emergency.

Mrs. Charles F. Moore

The Evangelical Church

One of the rarest bits of authentic DeGraff history, which it has been our pleasure and privilege to chronicle has come from the fluent pen of Rev. Ernest S. Meredith, pastor of the DeGraff Evangelical Church from 1895-97 which reveals the amazing fact that he is the only person who has delivered an address on Decoration Day in the old Murphy woods, north of town, now living to relate it. To Mrs. Carl Miller, Marion, native of DeGraff, we are indebted for this courtesy. Last summer Mr. and Mrs. Miller visited with Rev. and Mrs. Meredith at their home in Watertown, Mass., where he is the pastor of the Historic First Church 1630. He is a modest man and casually refers us to the last fifteen volumes of Who's Who for personal information. The letter follows:

Dear Fern Burdette:

Grace Shoemaker Miller has told me about the Centenary celebration in DeGraff and asked me to write to you of something your committee could include in your book about DeGraff's first hundred years. The annual conference of the Evangelical Church assigned me to the DeGraff circuit—DeGraff, Mt. Tabor and McCraw, at its session in September 1895 and I left my Canton, Ohio home about the middle of that month and stayed in that delightful community for two years, leaving in September 1897. The congregation was small, but in it were a number of the finest friends I have ever known.

My dear mother, Mrs. Sarah Meredith, joined me late in 1895 and together we carried on the duties of the churches in the DeGraff circuit. Both of us fell in love with the lovely town and its dear hearts and gentle people. As long as mother lived, we would frequently talk of friends and experiences of those far off years. The most cherished memories we had were of those happy times and events.

The Grand Army of the Republic was a great organization in DeGraff then and I have vivid memories of a Decoration Day in DeGraff in 1896 when I was asked to give the address at a mass meeting in the grove north of town. There must have been at least 2,000 people there and we had a lovely time. It was great for a young minister and I was young for I had just passed my 19th birthday when I arrived in DeGraff. Before we left I celebrated my 21st birthday. I can't risk mentioning names lest I omit some of the dearest of the friends, but the Shoemakers, the Johnsons, the Bergers, the Williams' and the Hudsons' are loved ones we have contacted in the years since. If you would like any information about me personally and my wife, who has been in DeGraff, see any one of the last fifteen volumes of "Who's Who." Good success to you in your worthy enterprise. You will be happy in gathering information about the dear old town. May the dear Lord bless you and all DeGraff folks with happiness, content and neighborliness for the next century as He did for all the noble people of the first hundred years.

Cordially yours,
Ernest S. Meredith

A History of Stony Creek Church of the Brethren

(formerly "Logan Church of the Brethren")

In the early part of the nineteenth century a few families, some of them members of the Brethren Church (or Dunkard Church, as it was sometimes called), moved from West Virginia into the Miami Valley into a vast wilderness

that is now known as Logan County, Ohio. Like most pioneer settlers, they came here that they might provide for themselves homes in its fertile bounds. For a number of years they worshipped God as best they could in their private devotions; but after a while they felt the need of a more decided effort for the fostering of the principles for which they contended. So it was that in 1827 they organized as the Logan Brethren church, or in later years Logan Church of the Brethren. Bro. Abraham Miller was the first elder, and Bro. Abraham Frantz was the first deacon.

In 1828, or near that date, Bro. Jacob Moomaw, a minister in the second degree, moved from Clark County, Ohio, into the vicinity of the church, giving the church an English speaking minister, Elder Miller being German.

Not many years after this, about 1835, Bro. Jacob Crist moved into the congregation. Later he was chosen to the ministry.

Sometime about 1840, Brethren Miller, Moomau and Crist moved away leaving the church without a resident minister for several years.

In May 1846 the church, feeling the need of better service in the ministry, held an election for both English and German speaking ministers. Bro. Abraham Frantz was selected as German speaking minister and Bro. Jacob Miller as English speaking minister.

Up to this time services were held in the homes of the brethren or their friends and sometimes in schoolhouses. They had services every six weeks. During the summer months these services were held in the barns; but when cold weather came, they were held in the large living rooms of the homes. It was not unusual for a family to walk ten or twelve miles to attend these services, so eager were they to worship God with other Christians and to hear a message from God's word.

Once each year, in the autumn, communion services were held in the barn on some member's farm. They had not yet erected a church. The old log barn on the Martin Miller farm just west of the present church was often used for this purpose. The communion tables and the benches were made of very rough lumber from the saw mill. People would come from a distance to attend these communions and be cared for at the place where the communion was being held or in the home of some other member. The meeting lasted all day Saturday, and the communion service was held in the evening. Many would arrive on Friday and as many as forty or fifty would be cared for in one home.

In 1857 a lot of two acres was bought in Union township three miles east and one-half mile north of DeGraff from John Kerr for the sum of fifty dollars and was deeded to the deacons of the church and their successors in office forever. In 1859 a church house was built on the back part of the lot. This structure had a seating capacity of about 330 people. The interior was furnished very plainly. The walls were white washed; the benches were not varnished or painted. There was no carpet on the floor. The song books were without notes; the preacher would read a couple of lines and the congregation would sing them and continue in this manner until the song was sung. There was a long table at the front about which the ministers and deacons sat during the service. Perhaps several of the ministers would all speak at one service. At first the deacons always read the scripture lesson but later the ministers took charge of the scripture reading. There were no Sunday Schools at that time.

In 1860 Bro. Jacob Miller was ordained to the full ministry, as was Bro. Joseph Kaufman, second degree. In 1867 Bro. Michael Swonger was elected to the ministry as was Bro. Jonathon Yoder in 1870 and Bro. Abednego Miller in 1878.

The year 1876 stands out as a great year for the Logan church. The one outstanding event of the year was the holding of the Annual Meeting, the national convention of the church.

The church was badly in need of repair, but the members thought it a wise plan to erect a new building. Consequently in 1892 the present building was erected. A few years after the erection of the new church the old one was taken down and a parsonage was erected from the material.

Bro. John I. Kaylor was elected to the ministry in 1911. For a number of years he served on the India mission field.

On June 11th, 1912, Bro. William Bean was ordained to the eldership and Bro. Hugh Miller was advanced to the second degree in the ministry.

Bro. Stephen Berkebile and his wife, who had returned from the India mission field, was secured as pastor on October 10, 1914. They continued in their work here until the autumn of 1919, when Bro. Berkebile was called to his eternal reward from his field of untiring efforts after a long sickness. Many hearts were made sad, since all had learned to love Brother and Sister Berkebile with a true devotion. Bro. Berkebile had served as presiding elder of the congregation of the church for a couple of years. One of his sons, James, a professor in McPherson College, Kansas, has since been called to the ministry by another congregation. His wife is the former Clara Lucille Huber, daughter of L. C. Huber.

On Sept. 7th, 1918, Bro. Leslie Yoder was elected to the ministry and Brethren Alvin Mohr, L. C. Huber, and Jesse Yoder were elected deacons. From 1920 to 1922 Bro. E. E. Eshelman served as pastor.

At the March council meeting, 1928, it was decided to ask permission from the District to change the name of the church from "Logan" to "Stony Creek." This request was granted by the District Meeting which was held the same month, and since that time the church has been known as the "Stony Creek Church of the Brethren."

Bro. and Sister C. Walter Warstler took up the pastorate on Dec. 1, 1929, and served in that capacity until Sept. 11, 1933. In the early part of his pastorate Bro. Warstler suggested and directed the formation of the Laymen's organization. It was thru the leadership of this organization that the church was remodeled in 1930. On Sunday, August 31, 1930, a dedication service for the completed project was held.

In Sept. 1934, Bro. and Sister John eVtter moved into the congregation thus adding another deacon to the official board. Feeling the need for more members on this board, the church met on Oct. 1, 1936, after the communion service and elected the following four brethren to the office of deacon: Bro. and Sister Clyde Roby; Bro. and Sister Paul Early; Luther Keenen; and Bro. and Sister Wilbur Yoder.

In September, 1938, Bro. and Sister Warstler left this pastorate, and on September 17, 1938, Bro. and Sister Walter Replogle came here to begin his pastorate. The Replogles served the church for three years.

At the Council meeting of September 5, 1941, there was held an installation service for his successor, Bro. and Sister H. Austin Cooper. In the year 1942, the large porch on the rear of the church was built, and the foundation of the church was repaired.

Bro. and Sister I. E. Oberholtzer, former missionaries in China, were installed on September 3, 1943. During their pastorate work was begun on remodeling the parsonage in April, 1944. Due to a wartime shortage of materials the work progressed slowly.

In September 1947, Bro. and Sister Lyle M. Klotz were installed as pastor

of the church. Bro. Klotz came as an elder and Sister Klotz as a licensed minister. At their arrival work was resumed on the parsonage, and it was made completely modern.

After a long life of faithful devotion to the church Bro. B. F. Snyder was taken in death on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1949.

(Note: The larger part of this history was compiled by Mrs. Mary Early Hostetler for the Centennial, July 24, 1927. This was revised by Mrs. Lulu Swank Hengstler for dedication services Aug. 31, 1930 and further additions were made by Mrs. Hazel Wren Mohr for the 120th anniversary celebration, June 1947. This copy with further revisions and additions is by Lyle M. Klotz.)

Rum Creek Church

On Sunday, October 16, 1850, we attended a service of this church, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the present church building. The meeting was presided over by the pastor, Rev. McDonald, and Rev. D. G. Hall. The present commodious church was built under the auspices of Rev. D. G. Hall 50 years ago. The building was filled to standing room only and many were attentive listeners outside the building. The building was built by P. L. Neer. The fine pulpit and altar by John Dachenbach. We were informed that the membership consisted of only forty families and that they were supporting a full-time pastor at a salary of \$2200. We marvel on how it can be done, but on giving some study to the various families who make up this membership we come to the conclusion that what the church lacks in quantity they more than make up in quality. It is a very fine community both as to wealth and intelligence.

We were supplied with some DeGraff Journals which gave an account of the building of this church from which we quote:

DeGraff Journal, January 20, 1899. At a congregational meeting of the Rum Creek M. E. Society, it was decided to build a new church. Subscriptions were solicited and hearty responses made. The stone work was left to Walker and Turner of DeGraff and Eber Hodge bought the old building and moved it away. The contract for the building was left to P. L. Neer to be constructed according to plans and specifications drawn by him and approved by the official board. The altar and pulpit chairs were made by J. H. Dachenbach and will remain a credit to his skill as long as the building lasts.

The dedication services on Sunday, January 16, were conducted by Rev. E. D. Whitlock and the balance due on indebtedness of the church, some \$400, was quickly raised. The trustees of the church who had the responsibility of raising funds were John Smith—Pres., P. A. Hill—Secy., Wm. Hammond—Treas., and C. Loffer, John Price, John Melvin and R. H. Rairdon. The music was rendered by the church choir under the direction of R. H. Rairdon. There is a Journal account of a celebration of the 100th birthday of the Methodist church society which shows there was an organization established in 1832; that it built a church and held together as an organization. Although shifted from one circuit to another, not being attached to any permanent organizations, and being assigned to Huntsville, to Maplewood, to Quincy, and being reduced at one time to only two families, but still the people hung on. Now they are independent and are on their own responsibility. And so, Rum Creek, we congratulate you.

D. E. Strayer

Story of Olive Chapel Told by W. M. Strayer

To Miss Grace Newman we are indebted for the following notes in connection with the History of Olive Chapel written by Wm. Strayer, first published in the DeGraff Buckeye June 17, 1881 and later republished in the DeGraff Journal, June 26, 1903.

Jacob Kress and wife were the parents of Mrs. Alice Walker, DeGraff; Matilda McCorkle, who lived to be ninety some years old, was the grandmother of Mrs. Anthony Shultz, DeGraff; Wm. Dodson and wife, M. W. Kinnan and wife were the great grandparents of Mrs. Harry Niefer and John Kinnan, Jr., respectively; Abner Newman was my great grandfather, who donated the northeast corner of his farm to the church and cemetery.

The following paragraphs were taken from the article written by W. M. Strayer:

The advancing lines of civilization first cut the dark forest of this vicinity when one Wm. Lee made the first permanent home on Lee Creek. Shortly after the first representative of the M. E. Church by the name of Ninnan Nichols, became a citizen and from time to time to the growing community were added others of like faith and practice. Among them we note the following: Wm. George and wife, Joseph Kinnan and wife, and Abner Newman and wife. At their solicitation Rev. Levi White was invited to make an appearance at the residence of Ninnan Nicholas. When the day arrived (in the spring of 1825) the house was filled and many were unable to gain admittance. At the close the doors of the church were opened and the above named George and wife, Nicholas and wife, Newman and wife and Kinnan and wife joined by letter and Geo. McFarren, Anna McFarren, Shepherd Patton and wife, Nancy McFarren, Mary Nichols, Matilda McCorkle, Simeon Nichols, Ann George, Mary George and Mathew George united on probation. Over this class Bro. Abner Newman was appointed leader, and in the following autumn taken into the Circuit plan, and known as the Newman Society. In the year 1827 we find added to the Church the following heads of families: Jacob Kress and wife, Wm. Curl and wife, Nathan Hammond and wife, M. W. Kinnan and wife, Thos. Spellman and wife, Daniel Pierce and wife and Jas. Titsworth and wife.

The following year, 1828, the brethren and friends of the church took it in hand to build a house for the Lord and in due time choppers, hewers and haulers had the material prepared and a hued log meeting house about 28 by 32 feet was erected on the little mound where subsequently to the removal of the church, the Newman Cemetery was located.

The legitimate name of this house of worship was Mt. Moriah, but it was usually known far and near as Newman's Meeting House.

A business meeting was called on New Year's Day in 1849, and within the walls are seated once more the official board. They deliberate. They demand the demolition of the old house. A brother rises and moves that they build a new house on the present site. Bro. Guiberson puts the motion and it carries. Motion carries that Bros. Jacob Kress, T. Spellman and Jno. Nichols be a committee to solicit funds. And thus Mt. Moriah dies and Olive Chapel is born.

MEMORIES OF OLIVE CHAPEL AND NEIGHBORHOOD

(By W. E. Henderson, Osgood, Ind., 9-22-22)

I am thinking tonight of the sweet long ago,
When a towheaded boy I roamed to and fro,
O'er the meadow and field and big oak grove

That stood back of the house, the home I loved.
 Of the neighborhood men, they are everyone gone.
 Of the Hustons there was Samuel, Andrew and John,
 And John Andrew Hahn, John Hamer and Will,
 They are all passed away and forever are still.
 Martin Kress, Lemuel Newman and dear Joseph Strayer.
 All men that knew God and could reach H'm in prayer.
 Henry Wilson, William McCorckle, and Wm. R. Pool,
 The memory of them comes surging my soul.
 John Saylor, Jim Sparling, Charley Mackey and my father called Add.
 When I think of them now I am lonesome and sad.
 And the neighborhood Mothers, I remember each face.
 They were Mothers in Israel and well fitted their place.
 And dear Olive Chapel, where first at the altar I kneeled,
 Was received in the church by Rev. Reuben Oldfield.
 And the crowd that we had at dear Olive Chapel,
 When I think of them now, they are a marvel to me.
 And the blessings and joys that came to us then,
 I hear them all now, the Glory to God and Amen.
 And the neighborhood boys and girls of that day
 As I call them to mind, they were happy and gay.
 But now they are old, scattered afar.
 And many, no doubt, have crossed over the bar.
 And I am living each day with a hope most fond
 O meeting my old neighbors in the Great Beyond.
 As I remember my years I've not long to wait.
 For I'm in sight of the mile stone marked Sixty-Eight.

Logansville Christian Church

Early in the month of March, 1809, James Moore and Robert Dickson, each with two yoke of oxen and a few necessary articles of household goods began a long journey from the state of Kentucky to Logan county. From Urbana to where Logansville now stands (on the banks of the Great Miami River) was almost a wilderness. Two years passed and still these two families were the sole white occupants of the territory.

During the fall of 1811 Alfred Mathews and John Means arrived in the township. Soon other families arrived, Alexander Piper, John Hill, Robert McMullen, Peter Hanks, Addison Henderson and Daniel McKinnon. Early in the summer of the year 1815, a preacher came from Cane Ridge, Ky., and announced a meeting at the farm house of John Moore (now the F. W. McCalla homestead). This was followed at intervals until 1824, when the families of the original settlers, Robert Dickson, Alfred Matthews, John Means and James Moore united in the formation of the first religious society in Pleasant township and not long afterwards a log meeting house was built in Logansville.

The church building now standing was built in 1876. The logs were donated by Martin L. Rohrer. It was built by William Naugle and son, G. C. Naugle and papered by Blanche Chamberlin; plastered by Hugh Barr; Thomas Heston was the first pastor. The first organ was bought in 1886 and Miss Minta Long was the first organist with William Naugle, chorister. The salary of the first pastor

was \$150 per year and the salary of the first sexton was \$14 per year. The Bible stand was made by Adam Krouse. The present Bible was given by the John R. Long family.

In the years 1921-22 the church dining room and kitchen were finished and rooms added on either side of the vestibule. Recent improvements include storm windows, hardwood floors, oil furnace and new entrance steps, donated by the Swonger family of Sidney. Among the former pastors are Rev. Thomas Hestin, Rev. J. W. Yantis, Rev. John Forsythe, Rev. W. H. Thompson, Rev. Aiva Shull, Rev. Arthur Denlinger, Rev. Robert Turner, Rev. W. J. Buckley, Rev. Charles Berkey and Rev. Sidney Olson.

The members of the choir fifty years ago were Anna Cole Naugle, Clint and Minnie Long Naugle, Grant and Rosa Naugle Long, Naomi Rohrer Wood, Daniel Rohrer, Alfred Shoe, Jesse and Vera Weeks Naugle, Lee Naugle Barnhart and John Weidenger. G. C. Naugle was the superintendent for more than 25 years and J. S. Swonger for more than 35 years.

Esta Young

History of Spring Hills

By Mrs. J. Bowers and Mrs. Leslie Frantz

Spring Hills, a quiet but modern little village in the northwestern section of Champaign County and six miles southeast of DeGraff, Ohio, was platted in 1832 by Joseph Woods and named Middleburg. However when the townfolk applied for a post office, they learned Logan County already had a town by that name, so being located in a setting of natural hills and springs, the appropriate name "Spring Hills" was chosen.

The town was prosperous from the beginning having two blacksmith shops, three general stores and a tavern the first year, and expanding to twenty-five or thirty industries before reaching its zenith in 1861. Some of these were: A boot and shoe manufacturing establishment conducted by Try and Burkhardt. Burkhardt moved to Sidney in 1852 and a shoe retail store there still bears the same name. Another shoe factory was conducted by a man named Hopkins. There was a cigar shop owned by Frank Bull, and employed four or five men, a harness shop which also employed four or five men conducted by Alex Piatt, three cooperage shops that were running in full blast year in and year out, brooms were manufactured quite extensively by Sheen & Horr, one tailor shop that employed two or three men. This establishment later moved to Bellefontaine to conduct the same kind of business, one cabinet maker's shop, one chair factory, one tannery employing a good many men conducted by P. P. Mast, who later moved to Springfield where a tannery today bears the name Mast. There was a large brick kiln that employed several men. We still see evidence of its work in several brick buildings still standing in the village and near vicinity. There were also two first class general stores, one grocery and two first class hotels, the records show one of these was called Chicore House.

On the outskirts of town there was a good flour mill, a good saw mill run by Samuel Ball, a wagon manufacturing establishment, two saloons and a distillery, where a farmer could bring his grain and exchange it for whisky, one bushel per gallon.

But the best of all is that in those days we were blessed with three churches and one school. However the school was dissolved by the state in 1936. The

children now attend school in Rosewood being transported there by buses. One church remains, the Presbyterian Church.

A village legend that has been handed down from one generation to the other, is that the town was founded the same year as Chicago, and great things were expected until it was bi-passed by both the railroad and canal—the railroad had been surveyed and part of the road bed constructed when for some reason the route was changed and the village started its decline.

Many other enterprises have been launched in the village history for various reasons never succeeded, on the strength of the canal being built close to the village. In 1884 Squire Little, an enterprising man, moved in, bought up land wholesale and erected the large brick building, containing at least eighteen rooms for office facilities, which still stands on the north east corner where State Route 275 turns south, but the canal was channeled about eighteen miles to the west and Squire Little lost heavily on his investments. In 1882 a milk route was routed through the village by Godleib Siegenthaler who had recently come, with his family, from Switzerland. He hoped to establish a cheese factory two miles south of Spring Hills, (where he settled) like those in his homeland. His nine-year-old son, Samuel, collected the milk twice a day in a one horse wagon. There were six customers and the largest herd of milk cows numbered only six. Because, during the summer months the milk soured before it could be gotten to the factory the project had to be discontinued. Later Mr. Siegenthaler bought the flour and feed mill which still stands on the outskirts of the village to the south on Route 275, this was a more successful business in which he continued until he retired. In 1896 the Co-operative Farmer's Telephone Co. bought its lines through town and set up a telephone exchange office here. The company failed and sold out to the United Telephone Company and later the exchange was removed.

When the Government discontinued the post office in Spring Hills feeling ran high and the following protests were unanimous among the business men here: While the free delivery of mail may be a good thing for the majority of the people, yet it is another thing against these small hamlets, for it will only be a question of time when the post offices of these places will be removed and then the people will have less business in these small towns. You may notice every day you will hear, some of the farmers say, "I would not come to town at all only for my mail." And when he comes he generally brings his work to the blacksmith and his eggs to the store. And when the post office must go, then the business men of these small places will see the difference. In spite of their protests the post office was taken away in the early 1900s and rural routes mapped through the hamlet from both West Liberty and DeGraff. Now, three times each day, except holidays and Sundays, a mail carrier passes through town between the hours 10 A. M. and 2 P. M. Adequate facilities for mail.

For many years Spring Hills was an incorporated town, but around 1940 it was voted back as part of the township and is now governed by township officials. Rural Electrification, which came through the village in 1937, was the biggest boon to the town in many a year. Almost every house is wired and the people enjoy the advantages which electricity affords.

The population was 400. Today it is around 150. The town, instead of the bustling place it used to be, is only a small trading center for a prosperous farm population. They and the townsfolk are served by two merchandise and grocery stores. The larger of the two is owned and the store operated by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dorsey. This is the principal building and was originally the Harrison Township Centralized school house. It is the largest structure to the east on Liberty avenue following route 275. In this same building J. D. Bowers, an

electrician of no mean ability, maintains a strictly modern electric appliance and repair shop. Here each week Mr. Dorsey sponsors a free picture show and daily Mr. Bowers entertains many people with his up to the minute video set. The other store, smaller but strictly modern, is located on the main square of the village and is run by Mr. and Mrs. Edison Wilgus. A machine shop, owned and manned by John Carey, boasts many electric tools and a modern welding outfit. Here breaks, on all kinds of farm machinery, are repaired. Also auto and tractor repair work is done as well as work on lesser mechanical gadgets as lawn mowers and bicycles. The "Frantz Bros. Raw Fur Shop" is located on the north east corner of Main and Liberty and is operated by Grover and Leslie Frantz during the winter's fur season. The Township House, centrally located is used as a voting precinct and the monthly meeting place of the Harrison Township Trustees. The top story room has done service as school, church and entertainment hall.

The Presbyterian Church, the community's social center, has an unique history all its own. This contribution, in part, was prepared by Rev. Reese W. Edwards for the Bellefontaine Presbytery. Fall meeting 1887. Rev. Edwards was minister of the church at that time.

Churches grow as the people increase. Working bees swarm. Drones are parasites. Cherokee Run Church, which embraced a territory of eight hundred square miles, was sufficient for the few Presbyterians within its bounds, but as the number increased there were several swarms, the first of which was the Stony Creek Presbyterian Church.

The Stony Creek Presbyterian Church, now called Spring Hills since about 1864 or 1865, was organized January 12th, 1826 at what was known as Newell's Mill. This mill long since gone, stood at the base of the hill upon which Spring Hills (village) now stands, near Grave's Creek, a little west of town, some sixteen miles from Cherokee Run Meeting House.

It was organized by Rev. Joseph Steveson, agreeably to notice which had been given sometime before. (Rev. Mr. Steveson had come from Washington County, Pennsylvania, several years before representing the Bible Society, and now when there was need for a pioneer minister, he came to Stony Creek and made this one of his thirteen preaching points, being really the father of Presbyterianism in the Miami Valley).

At this time John Travis, John Taylor and Joseph Wilson were elected elders. John Travis was elected treasurer and John Newell, Joseph Wilson and William Wilson were elected trustees. The records show that the session of Cherokee Run Presbyterian Church meet at Newell's Mill August 13th, 1825 consisting of Rev. Joseph Steveson, moderator, and elders Thomas Scott and Robert Edmundson and there received into the communion of the Cherokee Run Church the following persons: Robert Patterson, Silas Johnston, Mary Moore, Sarah Vance, Eleanor Wilson, Elizabeth Patterson, Ann McFerran, Jane Wilson, Joseph Wilson, John Wilson, Mai Wilson, Robert Newell Sr. and Margaret Monroe, who constituted the nucleus and charter members of the Stony Creek Church which took the form of organization early the following year.

Of these who had been elected elders Joseph Wilson and John Taylor were ordained and installed on the third Sabbath of January, 1826. This new church at that time covered the ground now occupied by six flourishing churches viz. Spring Hills, Bellefontaine, West Liberty, DeGraff, Zanesfield and parish, an area of three hundred square miles. After the organization at Newell's Mill the congregation erected a log building in the woods a short distance south of the mill and worshipped there until the removal of the log church to its present site. Indians, who inhabited this then unsettled territory, frequently attended the white man's

services in this log church. They politely but insistently refused to use the church benches to sit upon. Instead they squatted cross legged, with blankets drawn comfortably about their shoulders, on the floor. They were always attentive to the sermon being preached and conducted themselves in a quiet and reserved manner. After church they slipped quietly out and back into the woods, with perhaps only a nod of the head and a "Howdy" to the more friendly white men.

In 1844 they built a new church—Samuel Ball, owner of the saw mill and a benevolent giver, and a Mr. Beaty being the builders.

The congregational meeting at which the vote was carried to erect the new church heard some objections that money could not be provided. Since corn sold but for the 10c per bushel and wheat hauled to Dayton brought only 37c. Labor was 25c per day. A few of the towns people protested that provisions were too high—eggs were 7c per dozen. Butter cost 9c per pound and pork was \$1.25 per hundred pounds. But, still if the new church was decided upon they would help, consequently Joseph Wilson, William Calland and John Wilson were appointed a building committee.

This church stood until September 1886 when the whole was remodeled and refurnished in modern style. The frame of the former building being only slightly damaged, wherever damaged timbers were visible new ones were placed and the building turned to face the east. This work was done under the leadership of Rev. Rees W. Edwards and on November 6, 1886, the pastor elect was given power to write the participants in the dedication services, which was to occur as soon as the building committee should declare the building ready for occupancy. The building was once more dedicated to the worship of God by prayer and a sermon by Rev. H. A. Ketchum of Urbana.

About the year 1829 the Bellefontaine Presbyterian Church was organized from the Stony Creek Church and in the year 1840 the West Liberty Church was set off from it.

The fidelity of the early members to their vows and their conscientiousness to the proper observance to the Sabbath is worthy of record. We find on the records of the session book that on March 25, 1829 Silas Johnston appeared before the session and conferred that some time ago he had on the Sabbath gone to the home of Jacob Pine to attend to some business of a worldly nature, that in so doing he had sinned, for which he professed his sorrow and repentance. Mr. Johnston further confessed that he had paid some attention to sugar making on the Sabbath for which he professed his sorrow and repentance for the same. After an exhortation to sanctify the Sabbath he was restored to his former standing.

Also we find recorded that Mr. Joseph Wilson stated that some time last fall he being abroad with his wagon on the Sabbath did sell part of his loading. He then thought it was his duty to do so under the peculiar circumstances of the case. But upon mature reflection he now believes he was wrong, and for his sin he professes sorrow. He too was restored to his good standing. Such conscientiousness is worthy of emulation.

The church underwent another major remodeling in 1912 and 1913. On June 23, 1912 it was agreed to add a large wing to the north side of the church and to excavate a basement beneath the whole of it. This work was done under the leadership of Rev. S. C. Bates. And was dedicated to the services of God on Feb. 16, 1913.

Our last full time minister was H. M. Tenny who left in November 1925. Dr. H. W. Barr of Urbana and Sidney filled the pulpit every other Sunday until early 1947. Rev. James Steele Yount serves as minister of the church at the present time preaching both here and at West Liberty, each Sunday. He resides in West Liberty.



W. M. STRAYER CO.

A Strayer store in DeGraff since May 1869.

Daniel Evan Strayer, Daniel Evan Strayer II, Robert E. Strayer, Cleo. Dachenbach.



THE CITIZENS BANK

Directors—Wm. E. Harris, president; D. E. Strayer, vice president; H. W. Koogler, cashier; S. B. Hamsher and William Koogler, assistant cashier; Lloyd Harner, Paul Horn. The oldest bank in the county.



THE MID-STATE CONTAINER COMPANY is DeGraff's newest manufacturing plant. It is less than two years old and has already found it necessary to have additional space, to take care of its expanding business. The lot north of the present building has been purchased and a building 64x128 is being erected. This was the old Dennis O'Keefe property and was one of the oldest buildings in town, probably built previous to 1850, later it was the home of the Fitzgeralds. The Mid-State Container Company is now running two shifts and gives employment to forty-two people, which will be increased when the new additions are completed. The directors of the company are: L. E. Boisel, president and manager; H. E. Brill, vice president; H. C. Chandier, treasurer; Jack McKenzie, secretary; H. W. Koogler, secretary to the president; Charles Baughman, J. L. Brunson, Robert E. Strayer.

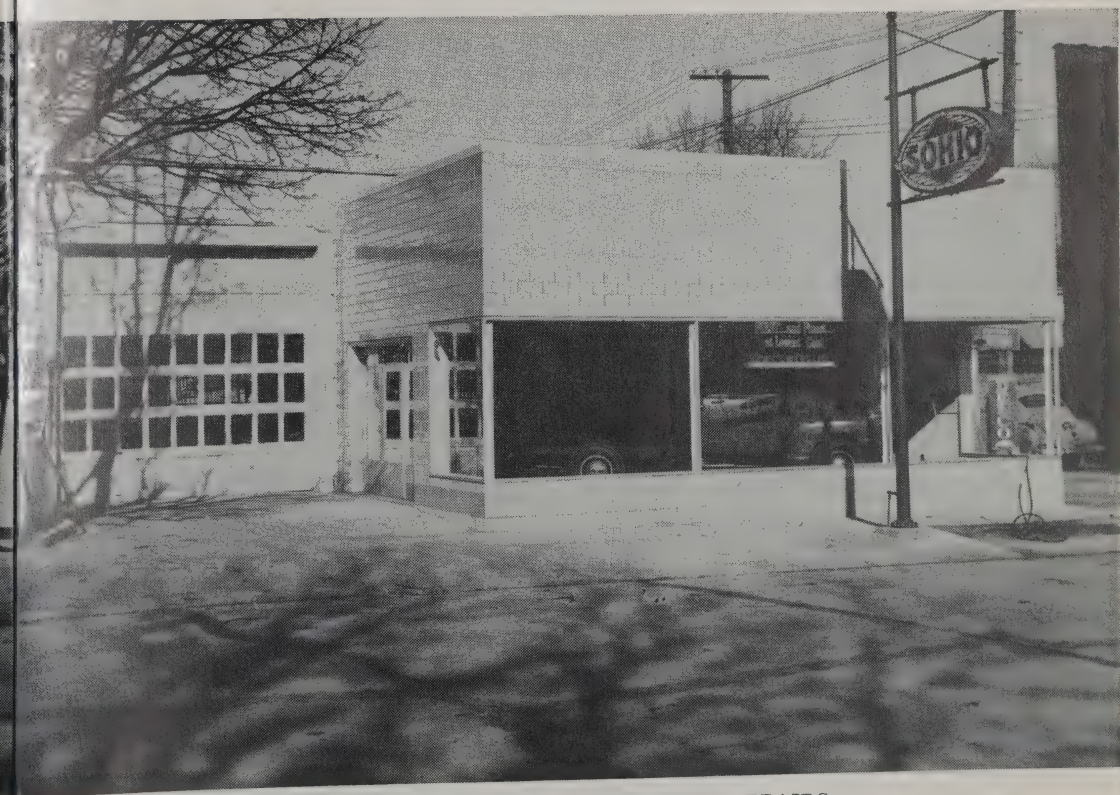


DEGRAFF HATCHERY

Nevin Hirschfield, proprietor.
100



REXER FUNERAL HOME
Clarence R. Riffin
A Rexer Funeral outfit since 1868.



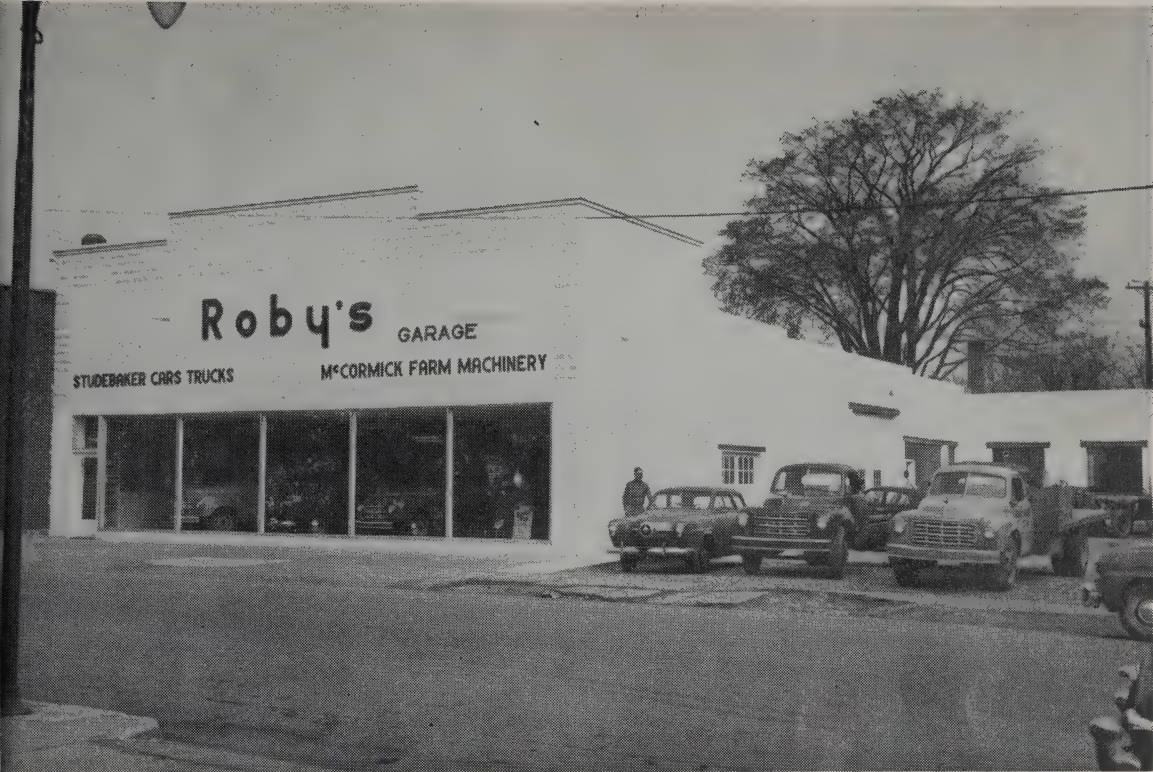
CHEVROLET AUTO SALES AND REPAIRS
Andrew J. Stayrook



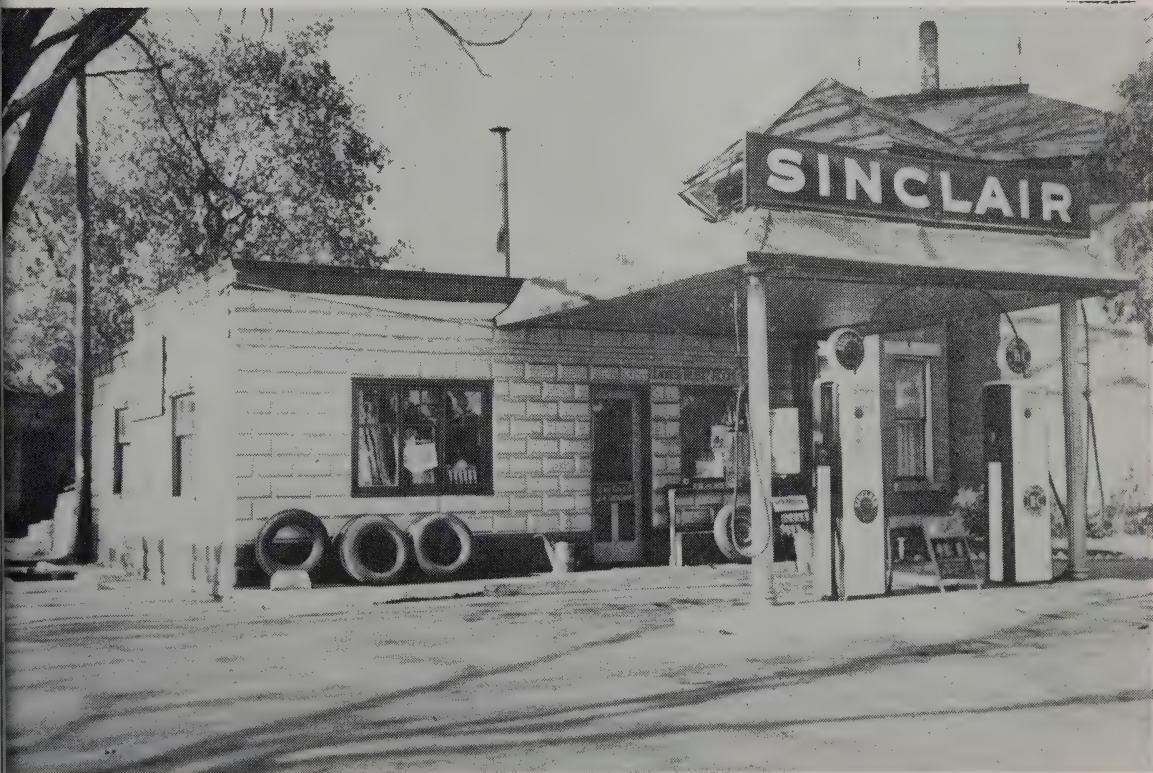
DEGRAFF LUMBER CO.
William Basore



HOKE VARIETY STORE
Everett Hoke



STUDEBAKER AUTO AGENCY AND SERVICE AND APPLIANCES
Clyde L. Roby



HINKLE SINCLAIR OIL STATION



JOHN KINNAN—SEEDS AND WOOL



C. R. TANGER & SONS

Operating Tangel Holsteins—Tanger Locker Service—Hybrid Seed Corn—Locker Service—
Appliances—Airport—Meat Market—Air Charter Service.



EARNEST J. REEDER FUNERAL HOME



IGA STORE—FUSON & WARE
Market and Locker Service



ROXY THEATRE
Angelina and Jack Gutilla



NOTESTINE TEAM OF OXEN

It seems to be a custom in outlining a history of a town, to picture some old landmarks—old buildings—covered bridges—old work shops. There are none such in DeGraff—all such relics of bygone years, having given way to the march of progress. But we present a picture taken before there was any DeGraff—a picture of an ox team, owned by William Boggs, and driven by Peter Notestine, who was a great uncle of Mayor Notestine. It was taken on Main Street, near the Roby Auto Sales building in 1834.



SAME LOCATION—STREET SCENE

Epilogue

Thatcher's Lumber Business in DeGraff

By John Thatcher

In 1870, Samuel H. Thatcher and his brother, Jonathan Thatcher purchased the saw mill in DeGraff. Their father, Abraham Thatcher was a farmer, until he came to Ohio from Virginia in 1831, when he settled in Greene county and started operating a saw-mill. In 1878, another brother, Henry C. Thatcher, bought Jonathan Thatcher's interest in the mill and moved to DeGraff, in that part of the town, known as Thatcherville and the firm was known as Thatcher Bros. Henry Thatcher moved his family in March 1879, shortly afterward, L. McAlexander, a son-in-law of Samuel Thatcher purchased an interest in the mill and the firm's name became, Thatcher Bros. & Co. In the year, 1882, John W. Thatcher, who operated a saw-mill, at what was then called Beavers Dam, on the DeGraff and Bellefontaine pike (so called then) moved his mill to DeGraff and joined the firm. They built a saw mill where the DeGraff Packing Co., is now located and still the firm name continued, Thatcher Bros. & Co., until John W. Thatcher, retired from the firm, taking the saw mill which was built when he entered the firm and Henry Thatcher and L. McAlexander taking the saw and planing mill, located in Thatcherville and the firm name was H. C. Thatcher & Co., which name continued until the death of H. C. Thatcher. In a short time, after, this change was made in the firm, John W. Thatcher changed his plant into a grain elevator, which he continued, until his health failed and he sold the business to Andy Mohr.

The Huber Cemetery

Recently there walked into the Strayer Company store a gentleman and his wife who introduced themselves as Mr. and Mrs. Walter K. Makemson. They were from Indianapolis and were looking up the antecedents of the Makemson's who moved from Logan County to Pierceton, Indiana many years ago. We told them they had come to the right place for their information. My mother's oldest

sister married Linz Makemson and moved to Pierceton, Indiana.

After discussing relatives familiar to both of us he showed me the origin of the Makemson family as far back as he was able to locate. Andrew Makemson came from Scotland in 1750 with seven sons and one daughter. Two sons were killed at Mud Island by troops of Cornwallis. In 1795 Andrew and wife, with sons Jas., William, John and Thomas moved to Cynthia, Ky. John and Thomas married Linsey girls and in 1811 they moved to Logan County and built log cabins a mile east of town where you see the fine brick homes today.

John lived in the house located to the east where Mr. Beatty now lives. The present home was built by Cyrus Makemson whose son, Winfield Scott Makemson, was a classmate of ours, graduating in the class of 1880. John III, son of John II, went to Indiana in 1834 to look the land over around Pierceton and bought 2000 acres of land. In 1835 he gathered up his tools, his horses, his oxen, and moved out there. Some years later his brother Linz joined him, having first married Susan Henderson, daughter of Samuel Henderson, who lived about a mile across the fields to the north. Susan was our mother's oldest sister.

We visited the home of the original Makemson's and also visited the Huber Cemetery where we located the graves of the original John Makemson. We never surprised at such a well-kept cemetery.

Of course Walter signed up for a membership in the DeGraff Centennial Association. They are fine people and we enjoyed their visit.

We have a letter from Linz Makemson written during the Civil War telling about some Pierceton women who got into a fight with other women who were not sympathizers and the feud developed to such an extent that the governor had to send soldiers to preserve order.

We are interested, in this Huber Cemetery, as to why, so many Hubers are buried here. So, on research, we find a record of Elzy Huber, who was a large land owner in Bloomfield township. He was a son of Manassas Huber. The record shows, that the father of Manassas Huber lived in Rockingham county, Virginia and died there in 1827. The widow, with six children moved to Logan county in October 1832 and purchased land one mile east of DeGraff, which home including the present cemetery and was the Huber home for several generations.

Adjoining, the Huber farm on the east were the farms of John and Thomas Makemson, who came from Cynthia, Kentucky in 1806. John came bringing his family on horseback, it is presumed that Thomas came at the same time with a wagon and implements. John became the owner of 400 acres of land. He was an active member of the German Baptist Church and was elected a minister a short time before his death in 1843. He had served his country as a soldier in the war of 1812, a Whig in politics, strongly opposed to slavery. His wife lived to the age of 93. This worthy couple had seven children, the sixth in order of birth was Cyrus, who bought the home place from the heirs and in 1871 replaced the log cabin, with the substantial brick house of to-day. On the 19th of June, 1845, he had married Arabella Huber, who came, with the Huber family from Virginia. Of this union, were born six children, Dr. Emanuel, who was the father of the late Dr. Frank Makemson; Mary, the wife of the late Benjamin Pool; Margaret, who married Simeon Horn; Barbara, who married Fant Kinnan; Winfield Scott, who moved to California and married Mattie Chase. Cyrus was a Whig in politics and an active member of the Methodist Church in DeGraff.

Cyrus' sister, Polly Ann married Henry Henderson of Licking county, who was a frequent visitor to his uncle, Samuel Henderson, who lived across the field, to the north of the Makemson home. This, Thomas Makemson, who came from

Kentucky, had a daughter, Nancy, who was born in 1818, whom Manassas Huber married previous to moving to Bloomfield township, where he acquired a farm of 720 acres. They had ten children, of whom, six were living when this history was compiled, in 1904, namely: Allen, Margaret, Sarah, Isaiah, Tirey, who moved to Indiana and Elzey. Manassas was a Democrat in politics during the day of early militia, he was made a Captain of the Light Horse Guards. He and his wife were members of the Methodist church. He died January 31, 1873, honored and respected by all.

Here you have a union of Virginia and Kentucky families, who made a fine record and left to posterity a large following of worthy successors. Of these families, is the making of Huber Cemetery.

What a legacy, this widow Huber left, who came here in 1832—besides, Arabella Huber, who married Cyrus Makemson, there is Margaret who married Raphael Moore, whence comes Abram Moore and a large and interesting family; another daughter, Diana married Jacob Miller, who became head of the church of Stony Creek and from this family came: Margaret, who married Amos Miller (who organized the Miller Carriage Co., in Bellefontaine), Elizabeth, who married Jacob Harner; Polly, who married Hugh Newell and then came, Abednego, who became head of the church at Stony Creek. Makemsons, Hubers, Moores and Millers and their offsprings are the make-up of a splendid community. This widow Huber, surely, deserves a page in this history, we are informed, she brought her slaves with her, when she moved to Ohio.

Arla Thatcher Recalls Old Days

Arla M. Thatcher, who lives in Los Angeles, Cal., writes the following interesting letter to D. E. Strayer:

Dear Evan:

From reports in the DeGraff Journal, from time to time during the past two years, you have been more or less in conflict with the hospitals.

I am most happy to learn by the same reports that you are again on the active list compiling and preparing the story to be told in book form, of the origin and growth of that gem of all villages—DeGraff. Congratulations.

It is most fitting that you should be in the forefront of such an undertaking.

As memory serves me, I recall that you have long been the leader in most of the good things brought about for the welfare of DeGraff and its people. You and that solid citizen, your friend Will Harris—more power. More strength, more time, to both of you. You both deserve all the blessings that can be bestowed upon you.

Many long years have passed since I lived in DeGraff, but all over this country, I have visited communities like DeGraff, especially in the West—many of them—but in comparison, all have failed to in any degree, match the beauty, progress, or the solidity of our own home town.

I am no longer exactly a young man, as you will remember, but in all my life's work and travels, DeGraff has remained in my mind the village beautiful.

In my thoughts the years pass in review. Way back in my very early youth, your father and A. E. Cory, both of whom represented in my mind the greatest height that could be reached in the mercantile field. John Shoemaker, grocer, was our childhood conception of a real honest to goodness grown up. Conceived, no doubt, because of the bags of candy, always found for free, somewhere among the groceries from his store.

Joe Mathieson, the man who kept the water tanks filled for the railroads, and whose engine house was a miracle of cleanliness. Emmett Fettenman, telegraph operator. Doctors Galer, F. M. and P. J. Galer, brother and father of the remarkable Carrie, to whom we all may pay tribute for her long and useful life. There was also Dr. Gilchrist, a very distinguished gentleman. I rememeber Dr. J. C. Hance, John F. Rexer, undertaker and furniture; Samuel Frantz, stoves and hardware; A. Weller, druggist; Fred Weigman, hardware. A. Maugins, photographer; Jacob Hershey, grocer; Hugh Runyan, farm implements, and before him in the same store room, away back, little Mat Wolfe, dry goods and clothing, and who, I remember, left DeGraff for California, invested his all in Pasadena real estate, lost in the early '80's on property now worth perhaps more than a million dollars. Harry Cretcher, Oliver Patton, he sold buggies and wagons, Tom Smith, Jacob Meyers, shoe stores, Charles Gessner, the blacksmith; John Bishop, shoe repair, one time janitor at the school house. Allan Graffort, George Harnish, once postmaster. I was his assistant at \$2.50 a week—\$10.00 a month, and what a big day in my life when Warren G. Harding came to the Post Office and I was important enough for him to notice. Charley Rogers. These men were to me the greatest in the world. They represented success, and were as far as I knew, the most important in all the world. As a matter of fact, we kids of that day hardly knew of any world outside of a ten mile limit from DeGraff.

These were the adults of my early youth, the best in all the world, and I think they have in all my life been my standard measurement of men's decency and honor.

I like to think that in spirit, they still tred the streets of their home town, waiting for the resurrection day, when they may rejoice with and sing the praises of their friends and homes.

On Memorial Day in 1947, I stood in Greenwood Cemetery and watched the young ex-service men paying homage to the dead heroes. I could see in memory the boys in blue, The Grand Army of the Republic, our fathers. I could hear the fife and drum, and the solid tread of strong men. I realized then, as never before, how short a span of time is life.

Evan, it is good to have lived our life, the greatest era in the history of mankind. It is good to have known DeGraff and its people. I hope to be there again soon.

Very truly yours,
Arla M. Thatcher

Do You Remember, Old Timer

By W. E. Harris

When DeGraff had three dry goods stores, two hardware stores, two drug stores and five groceries? Three of them sold beer, one store sold everything from a paper of pins to a car of flour, (Matt Wolfe's), four blacksmith and wagon shops?

When the depot was just off Main street on the east and a brick water tank was on the west side of Main street. Water was pumped there by a "ram" just below the mill race south of the railroad.

When the postoffice was south of the railroad in the Keating building? A. Weller Drug Store was also located there. Amariah Weller was the first postmaster. Afterward Mr. Weller built a brick building on the southeast corner of the square

and moved his drug store there. The first bank, Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, was located in the Keating building. This bank was organized by Arron Mitchell, James Reynolds, D. W. Harris and George Stuts. Later the Bank moved uptown. Phil Herzberg ran a saloon there for a few years. The building is now in Thatcher-ville, used as a residence and stands on the lot on which Samuel Boyer operated a tannery.

When the old "up and down" saw mill was located in the Koogler pasture, west of Mill Lane? This was built by William Boggs and sawed lumber for the grist mill on round the hill, also built by William Boggs. The mill burned about the year 1890. At that time it was the property of John H. Koogler.

Yes, Old Timer, we remember the cider mill run by George Wolfe up in the edge of Murphy's woods? Mr. Wolfe would give you all the cider you wanted to drink, but you had to "run the beam up or down" before you drank any.

Do you remember the street sprinkling firm of Lipp & Strayer? Jake Lipp furnished the horse and sprinkler and Deacon Strayer drove the outfit (Old Noah and wagon).

When Sam Neer and Bidly Harris got the first high wheel bicycles in town and Billie Williams and John Weller had the first auto?

Remember the old railroad covered bridge over Stony Creek west of town? Weller & Lippincott saw mill where the DeGraff Lumber plant now stands—Dr. Gilcrest's old mule and high wheel sulky that he drove over our mud roads to minister to the sick. All the good farmers that came to town "horse-back." Especially Matthews boys, Phil and Dan. They always used an empty grain sack for a saddle. John Rexer's plug hat that he wore in a Republican parade? Andy Brunson and old Charley (horse) out for a fox hunt when the snow was soft? Old Charley enjoyed following the hounds as much as Andy.

Remember when Frank Bull ran the Buckeye hotel where C. G. Garver's residence now stands?

When we had five or six good swimming holes in Kinsinger, Koch and Boggs pastures? All of them were named. The best one was the big swimming hole just above the old slaughter house by the covered bridge on south Main street.

Remember when it was considered a disgrace to be seen with a fishing pole on Sunday?

When the DeGraff cemetery was located south of Peters' blacksmith shop? When the Catholic church was a going institution, located on the lot where Joe Weller's home is now? This church was built and used first as a school house.

Remember the baseball team? At that time the Doan boys, Josh, Lyman and Ed; Marian and Oscar Johnson, Mike Hanifan, George Kinsinger and Doctor Galer, Shaw's boys Dan and Ike, and several substitutes.

And the first band? Jake Myers, Pete and Jim Neer, Eph Armstrong, Jim and John Pegan, Homer Callender, Ed Doan and Will Youngman, Pete Hartman and High Taylor, Ab Thatcher, Frank Pegan and Lon Graffort.

And the Hook & Ladder Co? Joe Moore, captain, and Jud Taylor, ladder climber.

This is too long. Now some of you other old timers tell one.—Old Nester.



THE ATHENA CLUB

Athena Club

The 50th anniversary of the founding of the Athena Club was observed Wednesday, November 17th, 1948, with a luncheon at the home of Mrs. C. G. Weller. Former members of the club were guests.

Serving was at small tables centered with arrangements of red rose corsages. These were sent by Miss Katherine Cretcher in memory of her mother, Mrs. H. D. Cretcher, a charter member. Later the corsages were presented as favors to each member and guest. Miss Frances Cretcher, another daughter sent candies.

Twenty-four were present, among them two charter members. Mrs. Weller, the hostess, who has been active for all the half century, and Mrs. C. J. Britton, of Piqua. Two charter members could not attend: Mrs. T. J. Class of Middletown, Ohio, and Mrs. F. L. Keating of Seattle, Washington.

Mrs. H. W. Koogler and Mrs. E. C. Thatcher presented a memory book to the club. This book contains a photograph of the charter members, a history of the club written by Miss Carrie Galer as well as all the club programs since 1898. The first forty programs had been presented by Mrs. W. E. Harris.

For the afternoon's entertainment Mrs. Robert E. Strayer reviewed the book "Land of Promise" by Walter Havighurst, a collection of essays on the development and growth of the Northwest Territory.

Former members who were guests included Mrs. W. H. Kinnan, Mrs. S. C. Frantz, Mrs. S. A. Frampton, Mrs. A. H. Huber, Mrs. E. S. Shawver, and Mrs. Thad Lawrence, of Bellefontaine; Mrs. Frank Pearson of West Milton; Mrs. R. D. Conrad, of Westville; Mrs. Harry Lyons, of Xenia; Mrs. Anna Hamsher, of New Knoxville; Mrs. A. J. Buzzard, of Delaware and Mrs. Eleanor Estep, who has only recently returned to DeGraff from Columbus.

In the autumn of 1898 Mrs. M. Gasgoine, wife of the Methodist pastor of DeGraff, inspired a few ladies to band themselves together for study under the slogan, "He who does not advance goes backward."

With the following introduction they began the work which is still of interest to others who have kept up the purpose of the club: "With an earnest desire to obtain a higher degree of literary culture, a greater fund of knowledge and a better appreciation of the dignity of womanhood, we associate ourselves together as a club."

The name of Athena, the intellectual divinity of Greece, was chosen for the club. The first meeting was held November 25th, 1898, at the home of Mrs. T. J. Class. —Mrs. Dan Wolfe

Famous DeGraffite's Record of Service

In connection with the recent celebration of the 93rd birthday of Mrs. Ida Patton, of Sidney, we remembered a write-up in a Washington paper of her son Raymond, who passed away twelve years ago, which we take pleasure in publishing.

Dr. Ed Neer, of New York City, says he remembers Raymond in school here and that they spent a year in college together.
Raymond Stanton Patton, Hydrographic Engineer

Born in DeGraff, Ohio, December 29, 1882.

Educated in public schools, graduating from Sidney High School in 1900. Entered Western Reserve University in 1900 and graduated from that University in 1904.

Entered United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, July 1904. Served on Coast Survey vessels in United States waters and in Philippines. Directed surveys of approaches to Kuskokwin River, Bering Sea, Alaska, 1912-13. Executive officer of Survey vessel which surveyed the Pacific entrance to the Panama Canal. Commanded Coast Survey vessels for four years. Chief Coast Pilot Section, 1915-1917. Lieutenant and Lieutenant Commander, United States Navy, 1917-1919. Chief of Division of Charts, 1919-1929.

Appointed Director of United States Coast and Geodetic Survey by President Hoover, April 1929, which office he held until his death on November 25, 1937. As Director, he planned the re-mapping of the country in an accurate way, survey lines to be set up ten miles apart across the country north to south and east to west. Some special markers are in Sidney, on the public square and at the post office, because a Sidney man was the originator of the plan.

Commissioned Rear Admiral by President Roosevelt and confirmed by the Senate, March 18, 1936. As an expert on coast erosion and beach protection, he contributed to the conservation of many valuable coastal areas.

Member of: American Society of Civil Engineers, Washington Society of Civil Engineers (president 1930), National Research Council Committee (study of shoreline changes), Engineering Committee on Shore Erosion of New Jersey Board of Commerce and Navigation, Life Member of Board of Trustees of the National Geographic Society, American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (one of the founders), Trustee of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Association of

American Geographers, American Astronomical Society, Cosmos Club, Washington, D. C.

Author of: Coast Pilot of Pacific Coast (California, Oregon, Washington coast lines), Alaska — Yakutat to Arctic Ocean, contributed many articles to scientific magazines, several articles published in Saturday Evening Post.

Radio Talks: On Coast Survey subjects.

Died in Washington, D. C. in 1937.

Percy Friend's Ancestors

Recently, we were shown, a Centennial History of Oakland, Md., by Percy Friend, formerly of DeGraff, now of Baltic, Ohio. He attended this celebration last August, representing the Friend family. The following account, we found in this history. We quote: "Early settlers"—John Friend Sr. (1732-1803) first permanent settler in Garrett county area and his brothers, came from their home on the Potomac in Virginia to an Indian camp or village on the Youghiogheny in 1764, soon after Pontiac's war. They liked the country and agreed to buy the red men's claim to the land. The following year, they returned with their families, paid the Indians in trade goods and took possession of the wigwams. Their settlement is now known as Friendville. He was a great grandfather of the late Abe Friend, who lived two miles south of DeGraff, a grandfather of Percy. The original Friend must have been of good stock, judging from the off-spring.

M. E. Burdette Relates Story to Son

An interesting story of the early 90's related by a former DeGraff resident, Matt E. Burdette, of Mountain View, California, to his son, Robert G. Burdette, when the latter visited him at his home recently, is told.

Matt, (as he was known) says, "In the early 90's it was the custom of blacksmiths to travel from town to town and visit local smithies and display their talents for the benefit of the local populace, they were known by the trade as roving smithies. The late Bob Fitzsimmons claimed blacksmithing as his trade and toured as a blacksmith. Prior to his defeat of James J. Corbett, March 17, 1897, (he was defeated by J. Jeffries at Coney Island, June 9, 1899) he visited my shop, located on South Boggs street and on this visit, he hand turned a horse shoe and presented it to me to display in my shop, and this same shoe, while crude, is still in my possession."

This shoe, will be on display at the Centennial, together with some master pieces turned out by Matt, himself. Mr. Burdette's exhibit of the lost art has been plated, very interesting and good examples of the handiwork of a pioneer of the good old days, of which DeGraff can be justly proud.

Baseball in 1874

The Logansville baseball team played our team composed of Doc Galer, George Kinsinger, Ed and Lyman Doan, Os Johnson, Jake and Ed Myers, Mike Hanifin and John VanKirk. The score DeGraff 75, Logansville, 17.

—DeGraff Banner, May 18, 1874.

DEGRAFF – The So Called Good Old Days

by BOB COOK, Sr.

The invitation to participate in the DeGraff Centennial in May certainly was received by me with much pleasure as I was just getting ready to check out, sign off, with three strikes on me, and my feet killing me. Thank you D. E., it looks like a good year for us old timers.

As a citizen and ex-Mayor of the (smart) little town of DeGraff it is going to be a pleasure to take part and have a part of the celebration this year.

Going back to let's say the days and years from 1900 DeGraff was a busy happy town, with good churches, schools, a solid bank and bankers. Plenty of parking space for (Old Dobbin) and a big league ball team. That is they should have been, they beat Springhills three straight games and always made Bellefontaine look like a minor league town. My first introduction and appearance in the village, was as a member of the Bellefontaine Vaudevilles, organized and promoted by Kin Hubbard (Abe Martin) and myself, out of the Grand Opera house, Bellefontaine, 1894, playing the one night stands in County towns, including DeGraff at 10, 20, and 30. A benefit performance in Wellers hall.

I remember very well that night in March, how the band playing out in front of the drug store, the rain coming down in torrents running down the players necks and filling Jim Neers bass horn which he had to bale out after each umpah, umpah. Despite the elements it was a S. R. O., sell out and a give out.

George Bones Nelson, one of the younger members of the troupe and a wolf with the girls if there ever was one, visited the High school that afternoon and passed out (Anna Oakleys) free filling the 5 front rows. Everything was going fine until Hubbard and Cook black face came on, (Pody) Rogers and Herman Chasey Meyers, two small town wise crackers, started to give us the rasberries, and held their noses.

Well, we knew when to drop the curtain, donated 6 dollars to the band, ducked paying for the hall, and headed East as fast as (Red) Maxwell's sample wagon would take us. Next weeks DeGraff Journal comment simply stated there had been some bad shows in years gone by, but this was the worst.

At the start of the century, I was a trusted employee of the old Bee Line Railroad. I was transferred from Gratna as telegrapher and night agent to DeGraff at the old depot, Ollie Vance Agent, and a good one. Here with the beautiful wife and two children we established a home on Koke Street, and lived happily ever after.

Credit at Bill Shoemakers and Strayers grocery bought T-bone steaks and calves liver from (Dutch) Weideinger, meat market, 10 cents per pound helped build the Presbyterian church. Joined church, attended all the socials and helped Ben Pool with his one cylinder phonograph record player. Slipped on a hot jazz number now and then for the young folks. Joined the volunteer fire department Perry Pond, fire chief.

Watched the sparks fly around in Harry Baughmans blacksmith shop. Leaving the office about two a.m. for a can of water, and finding Uncle Phil Detrick asleep leaning on the old town pump.

Yes, those were happy, care free days in the old town.

The quite, hot Sunday afternoons, the sour notes of a neighborhood cottage organ and a broken contralito doing Put on your old grey bonnet, and the chug,

chugging of Curt Durrs open top Dodge returning from Sidney. The plug tobacco chewers along the curb in front of (Josh) Hills barber shop. Doc Hance in the shade of the big cotton tree talking politics. The poker games down along the river.

Harry Kooglers golden cornet band concerts on Thursday nights, the crowds on the streets, peanuts, pop corn and lemon pop, and everywhere good looking teenagers (girls that is), Saturday night and the arrival of No. 10 from Sidney with a load of John Wagners, and Haners delight for the boys around the livery stable.

In the late fall the pungent odor from the canning factory of tomatoes, beans, and sour kraut, combined with the horsey evaporation from Jake Browns livery stable.

The thrill of living in a small town and being awakened in the night by the fire bell, the fire engine, and Sam Hamshire who once rode a bicycle all the way to Logansville and back for more fire hose.

Good old (Pony) Gates listening to a temperance lecture from Bill Shoemaker. Pony signed the pledge every winter at the Methodist revivals. The campaign for Mayor. By this time I had become quite popular with certain political leaders, both Republican and Democrat, and accepted the nomination to head the ticket for Mayor. I was dubbed the Back Alley candidate. (Dinkey) Sullivan, a local school teacher and a methodist was the opposing candidate. With the returns all in including Thatcherville, the vote was a tie, but the livery stable and pool room bunch demanded a recount.

That night my wife slept with the next Mayor of DeGraff, the Back Alley candidate. That winter the village council and myself spent the entire winter passing a street sprinkling ordinance for the next summer, Hugh Barr voting No on every roll call.

At the fictitious salary of twenty-five dollars per annum, and one Police court case, (a boot legger) suspended, because he had spent the night in the calaboose (back end of the fire department) without his cream of wheat and orange juice for his breakfast.

This was really the start of my political upheaval, and I became known as the Boy Wonder from the covered bridge at Logansville to Aminarins mill, Quincy. My name was even juggled around at Republican cacucas and Democratic Wakes.

1912 came the Republican Split, and the Bull Mossers. Strayer, Hance, and Erwin, the regulars and stand patters, Loffer, Starchmen, Bob Kennedy, the Bull Moosers. The Democrats, without a full County ticket, wrote me in as a candidate for Sheriff. After weeks of a most bitter mud sligging campaign among the two factions, the Democrats woke up to find they had elected Coulter Allen, County Commissioner, Bill Gkrabel, Treasurer, and yours truly Sheriff, thanks to the Bull Moosers and my good Republican friends, Democrats, and the McKeescreek band.

Moving to Bellefontaine, the rest of the story is familiar to all of you. Councilman, three term Mayor of the county seat and old Hi Point; and it all started in the dear old town of DeGraff to whom I owe so much as a Back Alley candidate and his honor, the Mayor. Many of whom I have mentioned in this article have passed on, nice people, good friends with whom it was my good fortune to be associated with. The salt of the earth in a Smart Town.

To those worthy citizens whom I have failed to mention in this article I wish to appologize for the shortness of time and a slipping memory. In closing I wish to offer my services to the Committee and to D. E. to help make your Centennial next summer an outstanding event in the history of Logan County.

Respectively,

Bob Cook, Sr.

Ex-Mayor, DeGraff and Bellefontaine



DeGraff Reds at Turn of Century

(By Fern Burdette)

Like an Indian, with our ear always to the ground, we heard that Chasey Myers had immortalized the DeGraff Reds and the national game of baseball as it was played in DeGraff from 1893 to 1912. During that time, many changes were made in the line-up but the original team was, Pitcher, Fint Keating; Catcher, Whitey Diltz; First Base, Jat Adams; 2nd, Bill Shoemaker; 3rd, George Yost; Short Stop, Poncy Gates; Right Field, Charlie Valentine; Left Field, Charlie Keating; Center, Chasey Myers; Umpire, Ollie Hershey. Time went on, "the old order changed, giving place to new." Ed Harmon, Frank Noble and Webb Boone filled

up the gaps. Later, Chasey became the umpire, Tim Turner, the score keeper and those on the team were, Travis and Tom Mathison, Joish Hill, Tom and Webb Boone, Frank Martin, Frank Garver, Loren Casebolt, Sheep Smith and Bob Burdette. The late O. S. Vance was an ardent fan.

BASEBALL IN THE NINETIES

By T. C. Myers

Sept. 6, 1945

DeGraff, with a population of 1200, situated on the Bokengehalas, (no other town can make that statement), was perhaps one of the most lively towns of its size in the entire county during the Gay Nineties, with its fine Cornet band, giving a splendid concert every Thursday night during the summer, bringing all the folks down town and attracting hundreds for miles around; with its crack ball team, viz: The DeGraff Reds, furnishing the fans with some bang-up ball twice a week. Young folks made their own amusement in those days and make it they did in Olde DeGraff.

But baseball in all probability, had the most followers and little wonder when you consider the fact that during one year there were ten ball teams inside the corporation.

Yes, ten of them, more than one hundred organized ball players, almost one tenth of the population a ball player; and most of them had uniforms, nearly all home made. The only team that did not wear "home mades" were the Reds, they being made by Mrs. Spalding and her husband.

One team wore bright red with white stripes; another wore blue with white stripes; the Murphyites from the north end of town wore brown with red stripes.

Where did they play you ask? Well, the Reds played down by the railroad track, the second and third raters played on the commons on North Boggs street; one diamond was located in the Thatcher lot on Ellis street; one was up in Murphy's woods, using the trees for bases. On the latter grounds you would often hear two loud smacks—one when the bat smacked the ball and the other when the ball smacked one of those sturdy oaks. The younger set played in the alleys, the wider ones with barns on both sides.

Yes, Olde DeGraff was certainly baseball mad in those days. Nearly all the business places would close when the Reds were playing at home. The fans in the country would hitch up and drive in for the game. Hitching places were at a premium—having to use the hitching posts on the residential streets.

When you saw Carey Frantz going down South Main Street carrying an umbrella, it was a sure sign a ball game was about to begin down by the railroad track. Clint Naugle, Logansville contractor, was undoubtedly the most loyal of all fans. He would order all work suspended at noon for the rest of the day, load his workmen into his conveyance and saw to it that they got to the game and safely home. Some fan!

One of the largest crowds ever assembled in town was on the day the Reds beat the Toledo American Association team by the score of 6 to 4. Fint Keating, who held the visiting team to eight hits, looked so good to Mr. Strobel, owner and manager of the Mudhens, as they were and are still called, he wanted to sign Fint up before leaving town, but Mrs. K—— thought her attorney husband should delve deeper into Blackstone.

Yes, they really enjoyed watching the Irishman perform on the mound, as he labored in order that he might deceive the visiting batsmen, never divulging his great secret, only to his catcher. They also enjoyed watching "Noodles" at third, as he came charging in, pouncing on those bunts like a cat would upon a mouse,

getting his man by an eye-lash and that once famous trio of the Chicago Cubs—Tinker to Evans to Chance—didn't have anything on Pony to Bill to Jat when it came to negotiating a double play. Truly some in-field.

Olly Hershey was the official scorer for years and later on was advanced to official umpire and was very proficient in both capacities.

One of the minor teams was so prosperous they had their own club-house. Chased all the chickens out of Reub Hill's hen house, put ten kids to work with whitewash and brushes and in less than twenty-four hours the meeting was called to order. All the necessary cash required was ten cents—a thin dime—the price of one pad-lock and one key.

But a dime could do wonders in those days—would buy a dozen eggs or a dozen roasting ears. Yes, it would get you a dozen ripe bananas (emphasis on the ripe), if you preferred them.

Harry Hill, oldest son of the owner of said club house, was elected captain of the team and carried the key to the pad-lock.

And you should have seen the catcher's mask that boy made. It was so heavy it required two players to help him put it on, and when a foul tip hit that mask, the ball was ruined.

Clipp Lipp had the first homemade ball glove in town. His father, who was a harness maker, made it out of bull-hide. It still remains a mystery what he used to pad it with. Most of the players who ever used it thought he used an old gum boot.

That glove was so stiff it couldn't lay down; just stood up when you threw it on the ground. Cliff couldn't play ball on account of his hay-fever and would rent the glove out at five cents a game, cash in advance. The glove disappeared one day and nobody knows to this day what became of it. Some are of the opinion that it left town with a visiting ball player. Others say that Cliff's goat got tired of seeing it around and ate it.

Cube Thatcher from Thatcherville would bring his team, consisting of himself and eight cousins, down for a game now and then, but they were no match for the boys.

Yes, DeGraff has always been a great baseball town and if Doctor Galer, Sam Neer, Jake Myers, John Van Kirk and several others who played on the home team back in the seventies, when the pitcher pitched the ball so gently up to the batter, no catcher's mitt or mask needed, just a ball and a few bats, were to come back and witness the game of today, they would get a thrill just as they did seventy-five years ago when Galer the Great hit a home-run with the bases loaded.

Yes, baseball in Olde DeGraff was not only a pastime, it was an institution.—DeGraff Journal, Oct. 13, 1949. George Himes, Editor.

Baseball in DeGraff

From early times, DeGraff has been a baseball town. We were, of sufficient age, to follow the newspaper account of the Cincinnati Reds, who went through the season of 1869 without a defeat. The Wright brothers, George and Harry, with pitcher, Al Spalding were our heroes. Ten years later, we visited Cincinnati and saw in action, Biddy McPhee, the peer of any second baseman and Arlie Latham, third baseman and expert base stealer. All during that period, we had a baseball contest in DeGraff, with teams from Sidney, Bellefontaine and other near by towns.

Along in the early 70's, the rules in baseball, allowed a pitcher to throw a ball to a batter, instead of under hand pitching. From that time to the present time, a good pitcher was fifty per cent of a team's efficiency. Somewhere near 1880, there came from Rochester, New York, a man by the name of Banker to visit friends in Bellefontaine. He was a fine base ball pitcher, the first one in this section of the country, who could pitch a curved ball. Playing with a Bellefontaine team, he made that club un-beatable. Having, a game scheduled with a Shelby county club, we hired this Banker to pitch for our club.

After the game Banker showed O'Neil how to grip the ball and how to give the delivery so as to cause the ball to curve either in or out. It took long hours and infinite patience to acquire control of the curve and so it developed on me to spend evening after evening catching O'Neil's curves.

We had no baseball catcher's gloves at that time and those in-shoots sure were tough on the hands—but it paid dividends.

For several years, with O'Neil pitching curves, we were unbeatable.

Younger boys took up curved pitching, among whom was Billy Johnson, who soon became a better pitcher than O'Neil.

And now, we come to the year 1897—the year that put DeGraff on the baseball map. Charles Curl had organized a team, which was practically the same old team, with one exception—Bud Fowler had been added. Bud was a colored player, who had starred on the celebrated Baltimore "Orioles," also, playing with the "Cuban Giants." He was now around fifty years old but still very fast and a wonderful short-stop. Moreover, he was a good batter and field general. The team lined up as follows: Fint Keating, Bud Fowler, Jat Adams, Poney Gates, Bill Shoemaker, Thurman Myers, Ed Harmon, Webb Boone and George Yost.

The best independent teams in the country were invited to play DeGraff — among them were the "Nebraska Indians," the "Cuban Giants" and the "Bloomer Girls," a national team of girls. One of the teams which played here and was treated to a big surprise was the Toledo American association team, managed by Babe Myers. Babe Myers was a Bellefontaine boy who had made good at baseball, got to be catcher on the Toledo team and was finally made manager.

Having an open date, he brought his club to DeGraff, expecting to show DeGraff sports how the game should be played, but Keating had one of his good days and Toledo went down 4 to 3.

The best player produced by DeGraff?

Billie Johnson would be my choice. He could pitch, was a fine infielder, a good batter, and base runner. He moved to Marion right in his baseball prime.

Who was the best pitcher?

Fint Keating without question. He had big strong hands and could make that ball shoot in any direction.

With Walker Cooper to coach him he might have made the big league.

Who was the best batter?

No person is better qualified to pass judgment on a batter than a pitcher who tries to fool him, so let's have a pitcher's appraisal.

Passing the Secor Hotel in Toledo one day with a friend he remarked: "Jack Edmunds who used to pitch for the Lima club is running this hotel." So we went in to interview him.

Asked if he remembered playing ball several years ago at DeGraff, he said: "I sure do—there's where a colored player namd Adams took all the conceit out of me. We were playing in a pasture, an abandoned mill race on one side and a creek on the other. We had come down to the ninth inning leading by a score of

2 to 1, for we hadn't been able to hit your pitcher (Keating). I hadn't been able to fool this Adams at any time, the ball had to be over and he was meeting it fairly. So on this fatal ninth inning there were three men on bases and two out when up stepped Adams and I couldn't pass him so I used all my baseball strategy on him. He fouled off a couple and then I worked the corners until it was 3 and 2. Then I put everything I had on a high, fast ball and "wham," I turned and saw that ball going on a line 20 feet over the centerfielder's head and away went the ball game.

The Old DeGraff Band – 1907

James Neer, Tuba; Grant Long, E-flat Clarinet; Clint Naugle, Trombone; Arra Naugle, Trombone; Body Baughman, Base Drum; Jacob Irvin, Snare Drum; Nate Strayer, Cornet; Harry Koogler, Cornet; Elmer Swonger, Baritone; Cecil Swonger, Clarinet; Jesse Swonger, Cornet; Frank Williams, Alto; Roy Long, Clarinet; F. H. Pearson, Strayer Long, Cornet; J. C. Myers, Cornet; Walter Phenegar, Trombone.

History of Boggs Lodge No. 292, DeGraff, Ohio

The lodge was organized in DeGraff, Ohio and the first meeting was held on November 12, 1856. The following officers were the first ones appointed October 22, 1856, and this was the date of the Dispensation from Grand Lodge of Ohio. James M. Askren, Worshipful Master; Isaac Smith, Senior Warden; William H. Huston, Junior Warden; Aaron Mitchell, Treasurer; Tiry Huber, Secretary; Samuel C. Kinsinger, Senior Deacon; William Kinsinger, Junior Deacon; Elsey Pegan, Tyler.

Names of members at that time: Askren, James M.; Bruner, Jacob M.; Boggs, William; Freeman, Heber A.; Gilcrest, R. S.; Huber, Tiry; Huber, Manafsek; Huber, Abednego; Huber, Joseph; Humphreys, John; Kinsinger, Samuel; Kinsinger, William; Kinsinger, George; Koke, John H.; Mitchell, Aaron; Mackey, William; Matson, Alfred H.; Norton, Daniel; Pegan, Elsey; Jegan, John; Smith, Isaac; Stewart, James; Shriver, John S.; Trout, Abraham; Taylor, Lewis; Youngman, R. T.

The first candidate initiated was W. D. McCune on January 9, 1857. On July 22, 1864, the Grand Lodge Officers met at DeGraff and laid the cornerstone for the New Lodge Room. It was decided at a meeting to accept the offer of Mr. A. A. Weller on the new hall and to accept the bid of Mr. Hayes to build same on the third floor of the Weller Building for the sum of \$1,025. At a meeting July 1, 1876, a lease for 99 years between Mr. Weller and the Lodge was read and accepted by the parties concerned. This is our present Lodge hall. The Lodge has grown from the original 26 members to 208 in 1949.

Officers for 1950 are: Orrie A. Byrd, Worshipful Master; Louis K. Miller, Senior Warden; C. Myron Strayer, Junior Warden; Charles E. Brown, Treasurer; Sterling Stiles, Secretary; Lawrence E. Linet, Senior Deacon; Gerald B. Pickering, Junior Deacon; L. Roy Clark, Tyler; Gerald R. Hill, Trustee; Ralph Foulk, Trustee; O. K. Loffer, Trustee; Sterling Stiles, Secretary.

Constance Chapter—Eastern Star

February 28, 1897, a few interested members and their wives of Boggs lodge of DeGraff met to consider the formation of the Order of Eastern Star. Fees were collected for the necessary expenses and recommendations were made for the following officers: Worthy Matron, Mrs. Amanda Hone; Worthy Patron, W. E. Harris; Associate Matron, Mrs. Elvira Thatcher.

May 6, 1897, thirty persons, as charter members met at the lodge rooms for the purpose of organizing Constance Chapter No. 78, which was duly organized by Deputy Grand Patron, W. A. Shearer, assisted by eighteen members of Mary Chapter No. 9 of Marysville. Secretary, Mrs. Minerva Thatcher; Treasurer, Mrs. Mary Rogers; Conductress, Mrs. Oda Britton; Associate Conductress, Mrs. Rose Strayer; Adah, Miss Ovie Mackey; Ruth, Mrs. Anna Calland; Esther, Mrs. Jessie Harris; Martha, Mrs. C. B. Doren; Electa, Mrs. Joanna Galer; Warden, Mrs. Fay Kinsinger; Organist, Miss Bessie Galer; Chaplain, Mrs. Susan Koch.

Constance Chapter has been in continuous existence through all the ensuing years and the following officers are serving for the year 1950. Worthy Matron, Mrs. Ernest Reeder; Worthy Patron, Mr. Ernest Reeder; Associate Matron, Mrs. William Hostetler; Associate Patron, Mr. William L. Hostetler; Secretary, Miss Catherine Hill; Treasurer, Mrs. Spencer Black; Conductress, Mrs. Glen Downing; Associate Conductress, Mrs. Gerald Pickering; Marshal, Mrs. Forest Friend; Organist, Mrs. William Mohr; Adah, Mrs. Laurel Clark; Ruth, Mrs. Lawrence Linet; Esther, Mrs. L. K. Miller; Martha, Mrs. Kenneth Fuson; Electa, Mrs. Jason A. Brunson; Warden, Mrs. Vincent Shaffer; Sentinel, Mrs. Marion Knight; Chaplain, Mrs. William Sprague.

DeGraff

By Agnes Fitzgerald

(A toast given at an alumni reception in DeGraff.)

This big earth's a roomy place,
When we think of all the space
On the mountains and the hills,
And the valleys, why it thrills
One to ponder. And yet
Where could us folks ever get
Any other place that half
Looks like livin' 'side DeGraff?

Mercy, no there's not a spot
Anywhere—I don't care what,
That we'd give this town for, and
That's just why it's hard to stand
When you're 'way and folks'll tell
'Bout some place THEY like right well,
And you speak up 'bout DeGraff
And the folks'll sort o' laugh.

Haint you all observed their way?
 S'pose some one should chance to say
 Something 'bout some place he's been—
 Paris, maybe, or Berlin—
 And he speaks about the view,
 All so grand, and right out you
 Say, "Oh, that's like in DeGraff."
 Don't you mind the witherin' laugh.

Really seems some right smart folks
 Take things like as if they're jokes
 That you tell about this town.
 And there's people you set down
 As havin' common sense,
 And they say, (mean no offense),
 That there is a bigger half
 To the world than just DeGraff.

Those car shops we WERE to get—
 Biggest that the state had yet—
 Some folks said it wasn't so,
 Said it like we didn't know.
 But we smiled (so's not to cry),
 And we passed that topic by,
 Some folks like to think all's chaff
 That's a blowin' toward DeGraff.

Once some people talked about
 Some great mountain they'd seen out
 In the west. And said that there
 It rose grandly in the air
 Miles and miles. And then, when I
 Longed to see one just as high,
 Said a man with scornful laugh,
 "Is there none up in DeGraff?"

Some times from false pride, I 'spose,
 When you're starting to disclose
 Some new features of the place
 Known to none of all the race,
 'Cept just us—sometimes you'll say,
 Just in sort of off-hand way,
 "In the town where I used to live,"
 That don't some how seem to give
 foreigners the wish to laugh
 Like the plain words "In DeGraff."

Guess perhaps we know what's wrong;
Some folks' greed is pretty strong,
And they want the earth, And we
Say, "Take all but this town. See?"
No, we will not give it up,
But we'll take a brimming cup,
And its first, last drop, we'll quaff
To our little town, DeGraff.

When I Was But A Lad

By William E. Henderson

I'm thinking now of my old home town,
Some sixty years ago.
When the town was small and the railroad new,
And the trains were somewhat slow.
My first ride to the county seat
Was with my dear old dad.
We sat in a bench in a box car,
When I was but a lad.
The station then was the old warehouse
Where Aaron Mitchell handled grain.
He also sold the traveling folks
Their tickets for the train.
On the topmost floor of the old warehouse
An oyster supper once was had.
To get there dad and mother rode one horse,
When I was but a lad.
The grist mill, oh, that wonderful place
With Canby, Wolfe and Shriver,
The log mill, too, ten yoke of oxen
With big Jim Ryan, the driver.
And Dr. Gilcrest rode his mule
O'er roads both good and bad;
For folks got sick, as they do now,
When I was but a lad.
And Matt Wolfe's store was a famous place;
The Shoemakers were in business too
And in their day were hustling folks
And always glad to wait on you.
And Billy White and Dennis Warner
Were the tailors that we had
To fix us up in Sunday clothes,
When I was but a lad.
And Uncle Billy Boggs, a Democrat,
Who rode a big white charger.
Few party men were big as he,
And none were any larger.
And old Squire Smith, our legal light
And only one we had.
He was our local preacher, too,

When I was but a lad.
 The little school house on the bank
 Of that famous old mill race.
 The knowledge that came out of it
 Can't be described for want of space.
 And Jesse Neer would read to us
 The news, both good and bad.
 Newspapers then were very scarce
 When I was but a lad.
 Ah, well do I remember,
 When I was but a lad,
 When soldiers rode off to the war,
 And with them went my dad.
 And how it thrilled us all with joy
 When Sherman took Savannah
 And old DeGraff was then my home—
 And now it's southern Indiana.

The author of these rhymes lived in Osgood, Indiana, when this poem was written, later moving to California, where he died.

Business Directory of DeGraff – 1950

AUTO SALES & REPAIR: Clyde Roby, Andy Stayrook, Harry Niefer, Paul Parker, Oscar Wilson.
 AUCTIONEERS: R. D. Shreve, C. G. Garver.
 BANK, CITIZENS: W. E. Harris, President; H. W. Koogler, Cashier; S. B. Hamsher, Asst. Cashier.
 BARBER SHOPS: Charles Block, L. K. Miller.
 BEAUTY SHOPS: Pat Long, B & B; Eddas'.
 BLACKSMITHING: Lee Downing.
 BUILDING & LOAN: Lynn Hinkle, Secretary.
 CANNING: DeGraff Packing Co., Robert Ash, Manager.
 CLOTHING: John Madden.
 COAL: E. V. Miller, Packing Co., Farm Bureau.
 CONTAINER: Mid-State, L. J. Boisel, Manager.
 CONTRACTOR: Loren Foulk.
 CREAMERY, DeGraff; Brunsons.
 DAYTON POWER & LIGHT, Rodney Smith.
 DECORATORS: James Wise, Russel Taylor, H. G. Weeks.
 DOCTORS: Byron B. Blank, O. W. Loffer, F. O. Garver.
 DRUGS: Morris Bros.
 DRY CLEANERS: Armstrongs, John Madden, Pearl Williams.
 ELECTRIC APPLIANCES: Lafa Funk.
 ELECTRIC WELDING: Wilbur Roby.
 FEED STORES: Farm Bureau, Robert Given, Wood Bros.
 FUNERAL HOMES: Rexer, Reeder.
 FURNACES: Herbert Tamplin, Strayer Long.
 FURNITURE: Rexer.
 GENERAL STORE: W. M. Strayer Co.
 GREENHOUSE: Arthur Rolfe.

GROCERIES: Toney Morgan, Judd Carey, Fuson & Ware, Oren Hough
 HARDWARE: Armstrong & Kinnan
 HATCHERY, DeGraff.
 INSURANCE: A. W. Denlinger, Cliff Carpenter, Arthur Haugen.
 INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE: Charlie Cretcher.
 LEATHER GOODS: I. L. Gross.
 LIBRARY: Pearl Williams.
 LUMBER: DeGraff Co., William Baseore, Manager.
 MONUMENTS: Win Kinnan.
 OIL STATIONS: E. V. Notestine, Taylor Hinkle, William Loffer, Chet Harris.
 PRINTING OFFICE: DeGraff Journal; Paul Cooper, Editor.
 POST OFFICE: Roy T. Smith.
 RECREATION: Robert Hall, Al Jung.
 RESTAURANTS: Nell Owings, L & B.
 SALE BARN: Jackson Bros.
 STRIDES: C. C. Wood.
 SUNSET REST HOME: Mrs. Cecil Carnes.
 THEATRE: Roxy, Gutillas.
 TINNER: Karl Kuntzman.
 UNITED TELEPHONE: Hobson Black.
 UPHOLSTERY: William Wise, Mrs. Robl Given.
 VARIETY STORE: E. W. Hoke.
 VETERINARIANS: Robert Voss, Verle Garver.

Doctors Who Have Practiced in DeGraff

James Canby—1825, J. F. Hance—1849, J. C. Turner—1850, R. S. Gilcrest—1853, A. F. Matson—1856, John A. Brown—1860, F. M. Galer—1867, D. W. Richardson—1868, M. A. Koogler—1874, B. S. Hunt—1875, W. W. Hamer, E. E. Curl, Loren Craig, W. C. Hance, Frank Pool, A. N. Herring, John H. Wolfe, W. H. Hinkle, Frank Makemson, W. H. Harlan, O. W. Loffer, F. O. Garver, B. B. Blank.

DeGraff's Postmasters

The following DeGraff citizens have served as postmasters of our village. A. Weller, Isaac Smith, T. J. Smith, Dr. W. H. Hinkle, Ed Cory, W. J. Gessner, George Harnish, Sol Loffer, J. C. Irwin, Frank Garver, A. L. Brunson, and Roy T. Smith.

DeGraff Citizens Who Have Held Public Office in Logan County

Raphael Moore, Surveyor, 1828-1830; Henry C. Moore, Surveyor, 1856-1862; Jos R. Smith, Auditor, 1869-1873; O. W. Loffer, Auditor, 1912-1916; John A. Smith, Treasurer, 1866-1868; C. L. Rogers, Treasurer, 1890-1894; Isaac Miller, Treasurer, 1903-1906; W. H. Hinkle, Treasurer, 1911-1913; Miller Hamsher, Treasurer, 1934-1939; Ama Hamsher, Treasurer, 1939-1947; L. H. Pool, Representative, 1900-1902; Roger Cloud, Commissioner, 1940-1948; Joseph Swisher, Recorder, 1899-1903; John Means, Commissioner, 1824-1826; Charles Cookston, Commissioner, 1878-1882; Samuel Smith, Commissioner, 1893-1895; Martin Rohrer, Commissioner; John Brown, Commissioner, 1898-1900; John Makemson, Commissioner, 1902-1906; Roger Cloud, Representative 1948-1950; Floyd Hostetler, Commissioner, 1948-; J. Ewing Smith, Prosecutor, 1937-1941.

DeGraff Municipal Officers 1950

MAYOR: E. V. Notestine

COUNCILMEN: Haskell Weeks, Jess Comer, William Sprague, Howard Hill,
Ernest Knief, John Kinnan

CLERK: W. H. Dachenbach

TREASURER: Taylor Hinkle

POLICE: Wilber Purk

BOARD of PUBLIC AFFAIRS: Harry Nogle, Ray Comer, Wilber Kuntzman

SCHOOL BOARD: Clifford Cretcher, President; Kenneth Angle, Ray Keenen,
Huber Rohrer, George Ellis

CEMETERY BOARD: William Notestine, President; William Walcott, Edgar
Roby, H. G. Weeks, D. A. Todd, Jess Comer, Huber Rohrer, Paul Wood,
Secretary and Treasurer

PARENT-TEACHERS ASSOCIATION: Jess Comer, President; Mrs. Robt.
Strayer, Vice President; Mrs. Wm. Sprague, secretary; Clyde Roby, Treasurer.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

OFFICERS—Robert Armstrong, chairman; W. L. Hostetler, vice chairman; Sam
Hamsher, treasurer; Paul D. Cooper, secretary.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—Mrs. E. C. Thatcher, J. C. Musser, Marion Knight,
John Madden.

HISTORIAN—D. E. Strayer.

HISTORY COMMITTEE—D. E. Strayer, chairman; Fern Burdette, W. E. Harris,
Howard Doane.

PROGRAM BOOK COMMITTEE—Marion Knight, chairman.

CARNIVAL COMMITTEE—E. V. Miller, chairman.

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE—Ray Hittetpole, chairman.

TRACTOR-PULLING CONTEST—Clyde Roby, chairman.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE—Chas. Cretcher, chairman; Arthur Rolfe, Mrs. W. I.
Friend, Mrs. Edith Thatcher, Mrs. Howard Doane, Mrs. C. E. Armstrong.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE—Mrs. Mary Moore Wolfe, Dan H. Wolfe.

PARADE COMMITTEE—Jess Comer, chairman.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE—Mesdames Clarence Armstrong, L. B. Adair, Spen-
cer Black, Jason Brunson, Myrtle Barnhart, C. C. Curl, Cliff Carpenter,
Charles Foulk, Forest Garver, Clarence Garver, Scott Galer, Joe Groeferer,
Ernest Hanks, L. O. Hinkle, Wm. Hostetler, Harry Koogler, Miss Bess Loffer,
O. K. Loffer, Clara Linet, Toney Morgan, Edgar Miller, Charles E. Moore,
Frank Notestine, Frank Plotts, A. B. Stayman, J. A. Shawan, Robert Strayer,
Anthony Shultz, Lee Taylor, Jess Taylor, Chas. Terrel, Wm. Wright, Pearl
Williams, Charles Weller, Joe Weller, W. H. Dachenbach.

FIRST AID COMMITTEE—Mrs. Frank Plotts, Mrs. Robert Armstrong, Mrs.
R. B. Shreves, Mrs. Ralph Foulk, Mrs. Chas. Neifer.

List of Memberships

—A—

Ace, Maxine Thatcher
 Adair, L. B.
 Adair, L. B. Mrs.
 Adair, William L.
 Allison, Russell
 Alloway, James
 Alloway, Max
 Amos, Bonnie
 Amos, George
 Anderson, Catherine Ward
 Anderson, Clara Campbelle
 Angle, Kenneth E.
 Angle, Thelma Speece
 Archer, Elizabeth
 Armstrong, C. E.
 Armstrong, Capitola
 Armstrong, Carolyn Melhorn
 Armstrong, Cory L.
 Armstrong, Gladys
 Armstrong, Robert E.
 Armstrong, Ruth Huber
 Armstrong, Sam
 Armstrong, Tina
 Arthur, Dianna
 Arthur, Emery L.
 Arthur, Emery L. Mrs.
 Arthur, Merton S.
 Ash, Robert

—B—

Bain, Agnes Johnson
 Baker, Emma Wheeler
 Banks, Elizabeth Strayer
 Barnes, Harold
 Barnes, Mary Painter

Barnhart, Myrtle
 Barthauer, Anna
 Barthauer, Harry
 Barthauer, Lee
 Baseore, Velma Harbour
 Baseore, Ernest R.
 Baughman, Flossie Neer
 Baughman, Frank
 Baughman, John
 Baughman, Laura
 Baughman, Martin C.
 Bauman, Audrea Miller
 Bazzle, Mary Alice Rairdon
 Beattie, Margaret Wise
 Beatty, Howard Mrs.
 Beatty, Walter
 Beeson, Orra M. Mrs.
 Bell, Elzy V.
 Bercaw, Ralph
 Bever, Jessie Walker
 Bishop, Bessie Hess
 Bishop, Curtis
 Black, Emma
 Black, Esther Huber
 Black, Lois Diltz
 Black, Ruth Stinchcomb
 Blackstone, Eileen Loffer
 Blackstone, Robert M.
 Blank, Byron B.
 Block, Charles
 Blumenschein, Charles L.
 Blumenschein, Charles L. Jr.
 Blumenschein, Clara
 Blumenschein, Gene Edward
 Blumenschein, Isabel Lou
 Blumenschein, Viola Elizabeth
 Bodenmiller, Martha Williamson

Bontrager, Gertrude Fleming
 Boone, Rudy
 Bowdle, Margaret Hill
 Bowdle, William T.
 Bowers, Jay D.
 Bowers, Madeline J.
 Bowman, Jennie
 Boyd, S. C.
 Boyland, Helen Brown
 Brabson, Frank
 Brackney, Leo Mrs.
 Brandon, Mary Startzman
 Brooks, Marian Weller
 Brown, Charles
 Brown, Paul
 Brown, Pauline Russell
 Brunson, Jason A.
 Brunson, Jason L.
 Brunson, Ethel G.
 Brunson, Wilbur
 Buchanan, Nelle Hone
 Buck, Francis M.
 Buckenroth, Ada Moore
 Burdett, Matt E.
 Burdette, Davis
 Burdette, Fern
 Burdette, Robert G.
 Burdette, Robert G. Jr.
 Burdette, R. G. Mrs.
 Burke, Ray L.
 Burns, Shirley Shultz
 Buroker, Eddie
 Burton, Nell Jenkins
 Byers, Ethel Meranda
 Byrne, Katrina Mikel

—C—

Calland, Anna Kress
 Campbell, Bonnie Lowe
 Campbell, George
 Campbell, George Jr.
 Carder, Arthur E.
 Carder, Charles Robert
 Carder, Lillian
 Carey, Judd
 Carmony, Lola Detrick
 Carpenter, Clifford C.
 Carpenter, Ralph
 Carpenter, Viola
 Carr, Cecil M.
 Carr, Florence Hanna
 Carr, Russell
 Carter, Jerry

Casebolt, J. Ferman
 Casebolt, Robert D.
 Catan, Dorothy Taylor
 Caylor, Emmet
 Caylor, Emmet Mrs.
 Chandler, Alta E.
 Chandler, Harry
 Chandler, Herman
 Chandler, Robert J.
 Clark, Clyde M.
 Clark, Eva Neer
 Clark, Dorothy Friend
 Clark, Helen Wiegman
 Clason, David L.
 Clason, Maude
 Class, Murrell Lawrence
 Clayton, Ivan S.
 Clayton, Otis W.
 Cloud, Clifford
 Cloud, Robert E.
 Cloud, Roger
 Cloud, Llewellyn Deweese
 Cloud, Belle Larkin
 Collins, Donna Wren
 Collins, Ethel Goodhart
 Comer, Nellie
 Comer, Roy Mrs.
 Connelly, A. E.
 Constantine, Martha Fuson
 Converse, Fred
 Cook, Bob
 Cook, Bernard O.
 Cooper, Paul D.
 Cooper, Ethel Jane
 Coover, Sarah E.
 Cornwell, Mary Hudson
 Corwin, Anna
 Corwin, Edna M.
 Corwin, Eloise E.
 Corwin, Hayse
 Corwin, Paul L.
 Coyer, Jess G.
 Coyer, Thurman
 Coyer, Thurman Mrs.
 Cox, Marvin A.
 Craig, Alice Estelle
 Craig, Fern Brunson
 Craig, Gerald Spellman
 Cranston, Ruth
 Creager, Alice Brown
 Cretcher, Charles
 Cretcher, Clifford

Cretcher, Floyd
 Cretcher, Frances
 Cretcher, Howard
 Cretcher, James
 Cretcher, Katherine
 Cretcher, L. Harry
 Culberson, Ruth Moore
 Curl, Bess Strayer
 Curl, Etta Maugans
 Custenborder, J. C. Mrs.

—D—

Dachenbach, Arthur F.
 Dachenbach, Frank H.
 Dachenbach, Forest
 Dachenbach, Marie
 Dachenbach, W. H.
 Dachenbach, W. H. Mrs.
 Dalton, Martha Strasser
 Dalton, Ivan E.
 Daniels, Perry
 Danner, Kathryn Jackson
 Davidson, Frances Moore
 Davidson, Glen V.
 Davis, Brownie VanKirk
 Davis, Lillian Dachenbach
 Davis, Phyllis Fuson
 DeGraff, Frieda
 DeGraff, Stanley
 Denlinger, A. W.
 Denlinger, Laura
 Denlinger, Everett E.
 Dennis, Vivian Hudson
 Derr, Christy
 Derr, George C.
 Detrick, Clarence
 Detrick, Elizabeth Hanks
 Detrick, Frank
 Detrick, Guy C.
 Detrick, Herbert H.
 Detrick, J. Herbert
 Detrick, James W.
 Detrick, Linna Black
 Detrick, Margaret
 Detrick, Marion F.
 Detrick, Thelma Oder
 Detrick, Nellie Grafton
 Detrick, Ralph
 Dill, Florence Olin
 Dill, Leah Doan
 Dill, Ruth Shott
 Doan, H. Gail

Doane, Howard
 Doane, Nell James
 Dodd, H. Lee
 Dodson, Earl H.
 Dodson, Georgia Meranda
 Donald, Wendell L.
 Dorsey, Elmer A.
 Dorsey, Vera L.
 Douglas, Marian Black
 Downey, Rosemary Rogers
 Downing, Art E.
 Downing, Glen
 Downs, Lola Dachenbach
 Dryer, Corinne Terrel
 Dunlap, Ray
 Dye, Helen Amos

—E—

Elbershardt, Elgie Pegan
 Eleyet, Margaret Downing
 Ellis, Avril Stewart
 Ellis, Bernard
 Ellis, Bernard Mrs.
 Ellis, George
 Ellis, James G.
 Ellis, John
 Ellis, Lois Ann
 Ellis, L. E.
 Elsom, Russell
 Elzey, Frances Moore
 English, Carrie Bayer
 Erter, Jane
 Erter, Stanley
 Estep, Eleanor Holmes
 Evans, Harry

—F—

Fairbanks, Clovis Nelson
 Fansler, L. C.
 Farbach, Ada Batdorf
 Fergus, Richard
 Fergus, Geraldine Detwiler
 Ferrier, Jack G.
 Fidler, Frank M.
 Fidler, Tena Bruce
 Fielder, Albert C.
 Fletcher, Mary Ruth Casbolt
 Fleming, Vance
 Flora, Harley
 Flynn, Esta Boyd
 Foreman, William D.
 Foughty, Harry
 Forster, Addie Gascoigne

Foulk, Elizabeth
 Foulk, Loren
 Foulk, Olive Williams
 Fox, Nellie Huston
 Frampton, Stanley
 Frampton, Gladys Wolfe
 Frantz, Floe Weaver
 Frantz, Luella Lyons
 Frantz, S. C.
 Frantz, Helen I. Moore
 Friend, Bessie B.
 Friend, Constance Kay
 Friend, E. F.
 Friend, Arden S.
 Friend, Hazel Naugle
 Friend, E. S.
 Friend, Forest
 Friend, Forest Mrs.
 Friend, L. Paul
 Friend, Percy H.
 Friend, Marjorie
 Friend, Ruth Lynette
 Friend, Willis I.
 Fry, Richard L.
 Funk, Lafe
 Furrow, Ralph
 Fuson, Catherine Taylor
 Fuson, Kenneth
 Fuson, Kenneth Mrs.
 Fuson, Mirja Brunson

—G—

Galer, Carrie
 Galer, Jessie Spellman
 Galladay, Adene
 Galladay, Luella Smith
 Galladay, Vayne
 Garling, Ethel Huber
 Garling, Nevin C.
 Garver, Clarence G.
 Garver, Forest O.
 Garver, Goldie Brunson
 Garver, Mary Turner
 Garver, Minnie Smith
 Geron, Mildred Notestine
 Getson, Russell
 Gfroerer, Emma Brunson
 Gfroerer, Victor
 Given, Robert
 Goodhart, Marie Moore
 Goodrich, Helen Hill
 Gowdy, Clark L. Mrs.

Grafton, H. Elwood
 Grafton, Louie More
 Grafton, Morton
 Graham, Ralph
 Grandstaff, James
 Grandstaff, Roy
 Grange, Miami
 Gray, Edith
 Grepp, Georgia Summers
 Grepp, Ruth Louise Loffer
 Grepp, William
 Griffis, Emerson
 Griffith, Lucille Lyons
 Grilliot, C. W. Mrs.
 Groezinger, Jean Stratton
 Gross, I. L.

—H—

Haas, Mary Inez Roby
 Hale, Nan Rea
 Hall, D. G.
 Hall, Emma
 Hall, Janet Weller
 Hall, Jesse
 Hall, Lester
 Hall, Lewis
 Hall, Nell Neer
 Hall, Ray
 Hall, Richard E.
 Hall, Virginia Wilgus
 Hamer, Amy Loffer
 Hamer, Maude
 Hammond, Frank
 Hammond, Robert
 Hamsher, Ama Kinsinger
 Hamsher, Lee
 Hamsher, Samel Boyer
 Hanks, Edna McKinnon
 Hanks, Sanford R.
 Harbour, Mary Curl
 Harder, Esther Vance
 Harless, Herbert Mrs.
 Harmon, Edward L.
 Harner, Lloyd S.
 Harner, Leone Trout
 Harner, Loren
 Harris, Chet
 Harris, George
 Harris, Guy Boggs
 Harris, W. E.
 Harshberger, Floyd
 Harvey, Carl P.

Harvey, Harold C.
 Hassel, Margaret Adams
 Hatch, Charley E.
 Hatcher, Lewis Mrs.
 Hatcher, William Mrs.
 Haugen, Arthur
 Haugen, Arthur Mrs.
 Haugen, Duane A.
 Haugen, LaVerne D.
 Haugen, Warren D.
 Haynes, Theodore
 Hazen, Mary Belle Stabler
 Heminger, Josephine Miller
 Henderson, Harry Boggs
 Henderson, Hatennes Wheeler
 Henderson, Homer
 Henderson, Paul
 Hengsteller, Charles E.
 Hengsteller, Robert
 Hengsteller, William
 Henman, Arthur H.
 Henman, David C.
 Henman, Robert
 Henman, William J.
 Herring, Elder
 Hess, Eva Rogers
 Heyde, Marveline Cretcher
 Hildreth, W. M.
 Hill, Gerald R.
 Hill, Catherine M.
 Hill, Howard
 Hill, Nelle
 Hill, Wilda Funk
 Himes, George Null
 Hines, Paul T.
 Hines, Ross
 Hinkle, Earl A.
 Hinkle, Harold W.
 Hinkle, Lena Taylor
 Hinkle, Lynn O.
 Hinkle, Minnie Abbott
 Hinkle, Nelle Detrick
 Hinkle, Taylor
 Hirschfeld, N. F.
 Hittepole, Marjory Spain
 Hittepole, Ray O.
 Hobert, Earl
 Hodge, Mabel Reid
 Hodge, W. Bliss
 Hoke, Everett W.
 Hollinger, Eli Mrs.
 Horn, Elizabeth Class

Horn, Paul
 Hostetler, Floyd M.
 Hostetler, William L.
 Hostetler, Revilla
 Hostetler, Shirley
 Houchin, Fred C.
 Houchin, Constance Miller
 Hough, Oren C.
 Hough, Pearl Clayton
 Householder, D. Howard
 Householder, D. Howard Mrs.
 Howard, Carrie Miller
 Hoy, John W.
 Hoy, Harold
 Hoy, Mary
 Hubble, Theodore
 Huber, Aden F.
 Huber, Charles
 Huber, George F.
 Huber, John A.
 Huber, Lawrence C.
 Huber, Mrs. Lilia (A.H.)
 Huber, Melvin
 Hudson, Donald S.
 Hudson, Eva A.
 Hudson, Grant T.
 Hudson, Shirley Garver
 Hudson, Helen Bayer
 Huff, Georganna Pool
 Huffman, Daisy Mohr
 Hufford, Grover
 Hufford, Dale McColly
 Hughes, Lloyd P.
 Hullinger, Milton
 Huprick, Vivian Friend
 Hurst, Annie Huber
 Hurst, Edward C.
 Hurst, Huber C.
 Huston, Forest A.
 Huston, Homer J.
 Huston, Mary Ellen
 Huston, Manila

—I—

Inskeep, Minnie Neer

—J—

Jackson, Charles
 Jackson, Howard
 Jackson, J. E.
 Jackson, Robert

Jackson, Robert Mrs.
 Jackson, William
 Jackson, John
 Jackson, Paul
 Jackson, W. M.
 James, Josephine
 Jenkins, Goldie Houser
 Jenkins, Lucille Smith
 Jenkins, Maybelle Carpenter
 Jenkins, Ruth
 Johns, Edmond
 Johnson, Charles E.
 Johnson, Edna Williams
 Johnson, Josie Summers
 Johnson, Nettie
 Johnston, Arthur
 Jones, Allie Browning
 Jones, Gaynelle Griffis

—K—

Kauffman, Blanche
 Kaylor, Ada E.
 Kaylor, Ellen
 Kaylor, Katherine Koogler
 Keating, Minnie Spellman
 Keenen, Fred
 Keenen, Luther
 Keenen, Raymond H.
 Keesecker, Dewey
 Keesecker, John W.
 Keesecker, R. L.
 Keesecker, Vernaine Gregg
 Kelly, Maude Wonders
 Kelly, Tempa Spellman
 Kerns, Roy H.
 Kerr, Clara Kuntzman
 Kerr, James L.
 Kerr, John
 Kerr, Willard
 King, Blanche Keenen
 King, Mary Ellen Morgan
 King, William Clifford
 Kinnan, John D.
 Kinnan, Mabel Horn
 Kinnan, Ruth E.
 Kinnan, Win H.
 Kinsinger, James R.
 Kinsinger, James R. Mrs.
 Kinsinger, Samuel A.
 Kirby, Grace VanKirk
 K'tchen, A. S. Mrs.
 Klair, Ethel Langford

Kline, Martha Beer
 Kloepper, Frank
 Kloepper, Jay C.
 Kloepper, Jay C. Mrs.
 Kluesner, J. C.
 Knief, Aldo Mrs.
 Knief, Ernest
 Knief, John
 Knief, Olive Mrs.
 Knief, Paul
 Knief, Richard R.
 Knief, Russell
 Knief, Virginia
 Knight, Marion L.
 Knight, Iva Wren
 Knight, Ruth Hengsteller
 Koogler, Bernice Wolfe
 Koogler, Harry W.
 Koogler, Harry Willard
 Koogler, Marion H.
 Koogler, Mary Elizabeth
 Koogler, Susan Elizabeth
 Koogler, William E.
 Kopp, Grace Lyon
 Kreglow, Homer
 Kreglow, Georgetta Gunyou
 Kreglow, Robert
 Kreglow, Watson H.
 Kress, Faunt E.
 Kress, Holmes
 Kress, Mary Huston
 Kress, Reva Loffer
 Krupp, Kenneth
 Kuck, Joan Hamsher
 Kuhn, Russell M.
 Kumler, Ralph W.
 Kumler, Ray G.
 Kuntzman, Dorothea
 Kuntzman, Josephine
 Kuntzman, Karl L.
 Kuntzman, K. Albert
 Kuntzman, Rosanna
 Kuntzman, Wilbur

—L—

Land, Esther Thatcher
 Lane, Maude
 Langford, Jennie Boggs Henderson
 Langston, Ariel Detrick
 Lantz, Harold
 Larkin, Clarence
 Larkin, Flossie

Larkin, Grace Maugans
 Larkin, Sylvester
 Larry, Florence
 Lash, F. Merrill
 Lash, F. Merrill Mrs.
 Leach, G. Harvey
 Leach, G. Harvey Mrs.
 Leagre, Ruth Clason
 Lehman, Blanche Dachenbach
 Lewis, Isabel Kreglow
 Library, DeGraff
 Linet, Lawrence
 Linet, Norma Madden
 Linthecum, Frances Kerr
 Lockhart, Emory
 Lockhart, George E.
 Lockhart, Hugh
 Loffer, Bessie
 Loffer, Byron F.
 Loffer, Ethel
 Loffer, Lowell S.
 Loffer, Lynn J.
 Loffer, Margaret Koogler
 Loffer, Nell Rogers
 Loffer, O. Kay
 Loffer, Pearl Wren
 Loffer, O. W.
 Loffer, William L.
 Long, C. Strayer
 Long, Catherine
 Long, Edith
 Long, Forest G.
 Long, Mildred Smith
 Long, Mamie O'Brien
 Longbrake, Forest E.
 Longbrake, Francis D.
 Longfellow, Ray
 Longfellow, Wallace W.
 Lotman, Martha Miller
 Loudon, Harl E.
 Loudon, Wanda Wren
 Lowe, Lillian Huber
 Lowe, Flossie Ross
 Lynn, Hazel Swonger
 Lyons, Daniel W.
 Lyons, Harry
 Lyons, William W.
 Lyons, Etta Heston

—Mc—

McCalla, Katie Huber
 McCauley, Anita Shultz
 McColly, Sam
 McCormick, Margaret Ann Shawan

McElroy, Winifred
 McGowan, Doris Mrs.
 McIntosh, Harold
 McKenzie, Jack
 McMahan, Genevieve Taylor
 McPeck, Irma Todd
 McVay, Herschel
 McWreath, Josephine Mikel

—M—

Mackey, Ovie
 Madden, Everett
 Madden, Glendora
 Madden, John C.
 Madden, Rowena Nicholl
 Madden, Wilma Stahler
 Makemson, Charles
 Makemson, Homer
 Makemson, Walter K.
 Manahan, Eleanor
 Manahan, Merle
 Manahan, William
 Marion, Frank D.
 Marsh, Martha
 Martin, D. Stanley
 Martin, Harry D.
 Martin, Iva B.
 Martin, Lucy Snider
 Martineau, Mary Hatcher
 Marquis, Lawrence E.
 Mathews, J. E.
 Matthews, Helen
 Mattson, Louise Thatcher
 Maugans, Harry E.
 Maugans, Lillian Russell
 Means, V. F.
 Meredith, Ernest
 Metcalf, Bert E.
 Mikel, Harry
 Mikel, Harriet Jantzen
 Miller, Carl
 Miller, Carrie
 Miller, D. Raymond
 Miller, Edgar V.
 Miller, Esther Sullivan
 Miller, Gertrude A.
 Miller, Grace Shoemaker
 Miller, Guy
 Miller, Harriet Doane
 Miller, Harry Mrs.
 Miller, Harvey A.
 Miller, Hazel
 Miller, Lewis W.

Miller, Lila Keyser
 Miller, Marilyn J.
 Miller, Robert
 Milroy, Grace Neer
 Milroy, Lulu Rouse
 Mitchell, Mary Elizabeth Brown
 Moeller, Mildred M.
 Mohr, Alvin
 Mohr, Andrew
 Mohr, Edith Jacobs
 Mohr, Esther Hinkle
 Mohr, Helen Jackson
 Mohr, Irving
 Mohr, J. Byron
 Mohr, Minnie Forry
 Mohr, Nina Wise
 Mohr, Richard E.
 Mohr, William C.
 Moore, A. H. Mrs.
 Moore, Charles F.
 Moore, Dwight D.
 Moore, Gerald H.
 Moore, Paul H.
 Moots, Frank R.
 Moots, Margaret Hill
 More, Jessie
 Morgan, Mary Summers
 Morgan, Toney
 Morris, Elmer
 Moury, Edwin S.
 Murphy, Elton
 Musser, J. C.
 Musser, J. C. Mrs.
 Myers, B. B.
 Myers, Evelyn Gist
 Myers, T. C.
 Myers, Iva Smith

—N—

Naugle, Clive T.
 Neal, Doral Mrs.
 Neer, Earl
 Neer, Ed D.
 Neer, Harley
 Neer, Helen Cretcher
 Neer, Lelia C.
 Neer, Lettie More
 Nelson, Floyd
 Nelson, I. Milt
 Nelson, J. C.
 Nelson, J. C. Jr.
 Nevetral, Clifford P.

Newhouse, Nellie Williamson
 Nickels, Arthur J.
 Nickels, Helen Shoemaker
 Nichols, Robert
 Nissley, James
 Nogle, Charles C.
 Nogle, John R.
 Notestine, E. V.
 Notestine, Charles L.
 Notestine, Marguerite Speece
 Notestine, Ottie Mrs.
 Notestine, Roger
 Notestine, Vera Detrick
 Nye, Florence Rea

—O—

Oder, Frank
 Olin, Harold C.
 Olin, Catherine Detrick
 Olin, Merle K.
 Olin, Otis
 Outland, James S.
 Owings, Nell

—P—

Padley, Maude Lyons
 Painter, C. E.
 Painter, Edward
 Parker, Paul
 Parkinson, Mildred Wolfe
 Patterson, Ralph E.
 Patterson, Robert
 Patton, Ida M.
 Peabody, Mary Makemson
 Pence, J. P.
 Peters, Cecil Casebolt
 Petty, John R.
 Pine, Clinton
 Piper, Harold
 Piper, Luella Norton
 Piper, Neal H.
 Piper, William F.
 Plank, Allie Yoder
 Plank, Florence Huber
 Plotts, Bessie Smith
 Poland, Martha Jane
 Pond, Helen
 Pool, Allen W.
 Pool, Benjamin W.
 Pool, Eloise
 Pool, Frank
 Pool, Kenneth

Pool, John E.
Pool, Loren W.
Pool, Ray Albright
Pool, Wilbur W.
Potter, Harold
Prater, Irvin
Praier, Martha Moore
Pratt, Belle Rogers
Price, Ruth Huber
Price, Wilbur Jr.
Purk, Wilbur

—R—

Rairdon, Huber H.
Rairdon, Florence Milner
Rairdon, Lester
Rairdon, Richard Milner
Rairdon, Sherman R.
Rairdon, Leona Rausenberger
Rairdon, Smith
Rairdon, Mary E. Myers
Randall, Raymond C.
Rausenberger, Lawrence E.
Rea, Mildred Rogers
Reames, Harriet Turner
Reams, Sanford
Reams, Stella Hanks
Reeder, Ernest J.
Reeder, Robert
Reid, Grace L.
Reid, Charles M.
Reid, James C.
Reid, John S.
Reid, Josephine Kress
Reid, Paul H.
Rexer, Charles L. Mrs.
Rexer, John F.
Rexer, William H.
Rexford, Olive Baughman
Riggin, Clarence R.
Riggin, Clarence R. Mrs.
Robbins, Lois Jean Moore
Robey, Kate Walker
Robinson, Leah Hodge
Robinson, Martha Kerr
Roby, Clyde L.
Roby, Edgar Mrs.
Roby, George
Roby, Jean Hostetler
Roby, Marjorie Mohr
Rogers, John A.
Rogers, W. Royal
Rogers, Roy B.
Rogers, Sara Lou Pond
Rogers, Martha Jean
Rohrer, Huber
Rohrer, Agnes Irene Loffer
Rohrer, Sherman G.
Rohrer, Edna Huber
Rolfe, Minnie B.
Rolfe, Raymond
Rolfe, Esta Hatcher
Ross, Edna
Ross, Roy H.
Ross, Leota Kemper
Ross, Florence Reynolds
Royer, Alta
Royer, Clyde
Ruby, Jean Miller
Ruppelt, Howard
Rush, Ethel Strayer
Rush, H. B.
Rush, H. B. Mrs.
Russell, Gertrude Pegan

—S—

Sanders, George Wilbur
Sanders, Lester E.
Sauer, Martha Lou Hough
Schrader, Eva Moore
Schroerer, Bonnie Calland
Schultz, Marguerite Naugle
Schumacher, Ruth Keller
Schwin, Mrs. Elmer
Seigenthaler, Sam
Sesler, Gail
Shafer, Thurman C.
Shape, Edward
Shaul, Jewell Smith
Shawan, J. A.
Shawan, J. A. Mrs.
Shawan, J. A. III
Shawan, Susanne K.
Shawver, Jay
Sheldrick, Blanche Carpenter
Shields, Edna Spellman
Shigley, Eldon
Shigley, Minnie
Shinn, Roy
Shinn, Ruth Hudson
Shoemaker, John Michael
Short, Phyllis Plummer
Shott, Pearl Harmon
Shreve, R. D.
Shreve, Margaret

- Shreves, Otto
 Shroyer, Cora M.
 Shull, Mary Baughman
 Shultz, A. E.
 Shultz, Ferrel
 Shultz, Irving G.
 Shultz, Reva Murphy
 Shultz, Thomas Mrs.
 Shurr, Eileen Cloninger
 Sidle, Phyllis
 Slater, F. W.
 Slusser, L. E.
 Smith, Adelaide Detrick
 Smith, Amanda Slusser
 Smith, Bessie
 Smith, Dolly
 Smith, Edwin S.
 Smith, Ella
 Smith, Frank
 Smith, Hamer W.
 Smith, Harold D.
 Smith, I. Lee
 Smith, Jacob S.
 Smith, John I.
 Smith, June
 Smith, J. Ewing
 Smith, Mary Stewart
 Smith, Paul D.
 Smith, Ruth E. Pence
 Smith, Ruth Ann Gross
 Smith, Ruth Notestine
 Smith, Rodney E.
 Smith, Jack E.
 Smith, Russell
 Smith, Roy T.
 Smith, Mary Pool
 Smith, Mildred Todd
 Smith, Ruth Coyer
 Smith, Steeley
 Smith, Thurman
 Snapp, Catherine Hartzler
 Snapp, Mary Kress
 Snapp, William P.
 Spain, Gerald L.
 Spain, Leota
 Spain, Leroy
 Spain, Pauline L.
 Sparks, Nelle Bigley
 Spayde, Norma Friend
 Speece, Newton
 Spellman, Caroline E.
 Spellman, James R.
 Spellman, Fred
 Spellman, Nina Taylor
 Sprague, William
 Stabler, Charles
 Stahler, Byron D.
 Stahler, J. C.
 Stahler, Paul L. Mrs.
 Stahler, Paul J.
 Stanley, Marvin
 Startzman, Mynne Thatcher
 Startzman, Paul H.
 Startzman, Robert K.
 Stayman, Luella Barr
 Stayman, Arthur N.
 Stayrook, Andrew J.
 Stayrook, Shirley
 Steele, Dale Neer
 Steger, Minah Friend
 Stevens, Charles
 Stewart, Nell Notestine
 Stickrod, Howard E.
 Stickrod, Marie L.
 Stiles, Bertha Gross
 Stiles, Emma
 Stiles, Iris Stewart
 Stiles, Raymond Mrs.
 Stiles, Sterling
 Stinchcomb, Gail W.
 Stone, A. M.
 Stotler, Nora Wimberly
 Strayer, Alice
 Strayer, Azalia Deweese
 Strayer, Antoinette Moore
 Strayer, Clara Florence
 Strayer, C. Myron
 Strayer, D. E.
 Strayer, Don
 Strayer, May Shidaker
 Strayer, Moselle Prater
 Strayer, Floyd
 Strayer, Frank M.
 Strayer, Harley Lee
 Strayer, Helen O'Dell
 Strayer, Herbert
 Strayer, Joan
 Strayer, Mabel Mohr
 Strayer, Ray
 Strayer, Robert E.
 Strayer, Robert R.
 Strayer, Rollo W.
 Strayer, Stanley
 Strayer, William M.
 Strong, Josephine McQueen
 Strub, Homer

Strub, Nell Brown
 Stull, Elizabeth
 Stull, Neil
 Sturm, Anna Wilkinson
 Stuts, George H.
 Styer, Kathleen Hall
 Sullivan, Matt E.
 Sweat, Norman
 Sweet, Daisy Pool
 Swisher, Don B.
 Swonger, Cecil C.
 Swonger, Dora Mrs.
 Swonger, Elmer E.
 Swonger, Minta
 Swonger, Jesse C.
 Swonger, Sherman Mrs.
 Swonger, William B.

—T—

Tamplin, Dorothy Cook
 Tamplin, Glenn R.
 Tamplin, Herbert R.
 Tamplin, Francis Loffer
 Tamplin, Lewis
 Tanger, Charles
 Tanger, Margaret Deweese
 Tanger, Marion
 Tanger, William
 Taylor, Harold D.
 Taylor, Jesse W.
 Taylor, Lulu Casebolt
 Taylor, Jack
 Taylor, Lee
 Taylor, Mary Emily
 Taylor, Oak A.
 Taylor, Ruth Felger
 Terrell, Pearl Loffer
 Terrell, Rose
 Terrell C. L.
 Terrell, C. L. Mrs.
 Thatcher, Alice
 Thatcher, Arla M.
 Thatcher, Edith Boyd
 Thatcher, Frank
 Thatcher, Gertrude Kaylor
 Thatcher, John W.
 Thatcher, Paul E.
 Thatcher, Samuel H.
 Thatcher, Bess Rea
 Thatcher, Stanley
 Thomas, Forest
 Thompson, Bessie Fry
 Tobias, Mrs. Lamar

Todd, Dan A.
 Todd, Victor L.
 Townend, Jack W.
 Trout, Catherine
 Trout, David
 Turner, Earl E.
 Turner, Lawrence G.
 Turner, Mary Thatcher
 Turner, W. C.
 Tully, Dorothea King
 Tully, Frank
 Tully, Harry

—U—

Utzing, Betty Hostetler

—V—

Van, Valkenburg M. M.
 Vance, Velma
 VanKirk, Lavanda Moses
 Vansky, Donna Baughman
 Vetter, John W.
 Vetter, Minnie Warstler
 Vetterling, William C.
 Vetterling, Mary Pond
 Vonderhuevel, Irene Carder

—W—

Walker, Alice Kress
 Walker, Donna Cretcher
 Walker, Frank L.
 Walker, Mary E.
 Walker, Teddy R.
 Walton, Mary Sullivan
 Ward, Doris Headings
 Ward, Herbert
 Ward, Hulda Wiegman
 Ward, Miller Harris
 Ward, Paul K.
 Ward, Robert C.
 Ward, Rodney H.
 Ward, Stewart
 Ward, William
 Ware, Paul
 Warstler, Cleo Brenner
 Weeks, Paul Mrs.
 Weatherby, Ethel Lane
 Weber, Elza
 Weeks, Carl
 Weeks, Florence Wenrick
 Weeks, Haskell
 Weeks, Omar Mrs.
 Weeks, Ralph E.
 Weeks, Raymond

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Weller, Adeline Black | Wolfe, Dan H. |
| Weller, Joseph R. | Wolfe, Mary Moore |
| Weller, Maude Chambers | Wolfe, Lucy Ann |
| Weller, Maude Mrs. | Wolfe, John Moore |
| Westfall, Helen Stahler | Wolfe, Harold P. |
| Wheeler, C. G. | Wonders, Charlie |
| Wheeler, H. V. | Wonders, George Franklin |
| Whitman, Effie Hanks | Woodard, Sue Mohr |
| Whitman, John O. | Wood, Caius C. |
| Whited, Hattie Bayer | Wood, Caius C. Mrs. |
| Whitney, H. V. | Wood, Mary Johnson |
| Whitney, Madelynn Startzman | Wood, Paul |
| Whittington, Laura Pool | Wood, Stanley E. |
| Wiant, Hazel Strayer | Woods, Beatrice Friend |
| Wiegman, Andrew Lewis | Worley, Etta E. |
| Wiegman, Hortense H. | Wren, Charles |
| Wiegman, Paul W. | Wren, May Neer |
| Wiegman, Ralph G. | Wright, Margaret Cloninger |
| Wiegman, Ralph G. Mrs. | Wright, Volney |
| Wiford, Brice | Wright, Wilma Dale Wheeler |
| Wiles, Carl | Wright, William M. |
| Wiles, Ferman | |
| Williams, B. Frank | —Y— |
| Williams, Pearl Norton | Yocum, Ora McKinney |
| Williams, Harold E. | Yoder, Charles |
| Williams, Mabel M. | Yoder, Harvey |
| Williamson, Eileen | Yoder, Lawrence |
| Williamson, Loren | Yoder, LaVonne Warstler |
| Williamson, Helen Huber | Yost, Hattie Lyons |
| Williamson, Ralph G. | Young, Esta McCalla |
| Williamson, Robert H. | Young, Eva Thatcher |
| Willis, Martha Hamsher | Young, Margaret Huber |
| Willoby, Annette Hough | |
| Wilson, Helen Moore | —Z— |
| Wilson, Lloyd | Zimni, Caroline Turner |
| Wirick, Helen Means | Zipse, Edna Nevetral |
| Wise, James | Zirkle, B. C. |
| Wise, Mary McBrien | Zirkle, Chester |
| Wise, William V. | Zweible, Lydia Huston |





